Battle Angel Alita

ANGEL'S ASCENSION

VIZ GRAPHIC NOVEL

FALLEN ANGEL

A BATTLE ANGEL ALITA™ GRAPHIC NOVEL

STORY AND ART BY

YUKITO KISHIRO

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This volume contains BATTLE ANGEL ALITA PART EIGHT in its entirety

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BATTLE ANGEL ALITA GRAPHIC NOVELS

BATTLE ANGEL ALITA
TEARS OF AN ANGEL
KILLING ANGEL
ANGEL OF VICTORY
ANGEL OF REDEMPTION
ANGEL OF DEATH
ANGEL OF CHAOS
FALLEN ANGEL
ANGELS ASCENSION

NO BRAINER

Challenge 1: Revelation

NUMMMM
MMARVELOUS!

GLAAAAA!
SWASH
TASH
SPLLSHHT
SKRONK
GLAH!
SSH

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
WAH!
YEEK!
SPLAM
FA
WHUD
HELLO, PROFESSOR NOVA—
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.

STOP IT, A-II
YOU ARE NOT TO HARM PROFESSOR NOVA!
TAKA TAKA
DAMN! THE SYSTEM IS STILL FROZEN!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, ALITA!
HE ALREADY MADE A DEAL WITH MY FATHER! HE SOLD YOU OUT!
MY FATHER'S A DEMON, SOWING PAIN AND SUFFERING UPON THIS EARTH!
DON'T HESITATE-- JUST KILL HIM!
KAOS
CHK
PAIN? SUFFERING? I GAVE THE WORTHLESS HUMANS OF THE SURFACE A PURPOSE - A FUNCTION IN MY EXPERIMENTS!
I SHOULD BE HONORED, REWARDED FOR MY--

NGH!
THUK
AHHHH!
YOU'RE SO PATHETIC...
GUHHH!

TO THINK THAT SUCH A WEAKLING HAS MADE OUR LIVES HELL!
FMP

THAT REALLY TICKS ME OFF!

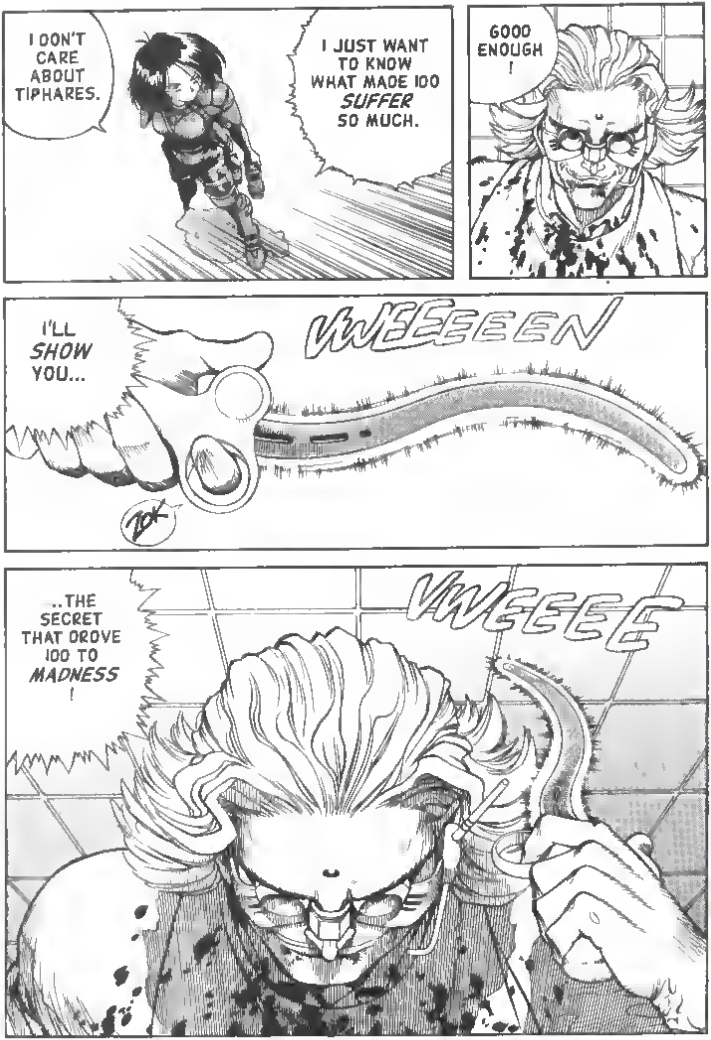
A-1, YOU--!

A MACHINE LIKE YOU ISN'T WORTH EVEN ONE OF PROFESSOR NOVA'S BRAIN CELLS!
IF YOU DON'T CEASE AND DESIST THIS INSTANT, I'LL BRAND YOU A TRAITOR--AND SEND THE AR SERIES TO EXECUTE YOU!

BRING 'EM ON!
I'LL CRUSH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THEM!
.....
SO STRONG!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED SINCE YESTERDAY, BUT SOMETHING HAS CHANGED IN HER!
AHHH!
BEG FOR YOUR LIFE, NOVA!
NOT THAT YOU KNOW MERCY!
OH! I CAN'T BEAR IT-- NEVER TO EAT FLAN AGAIN!

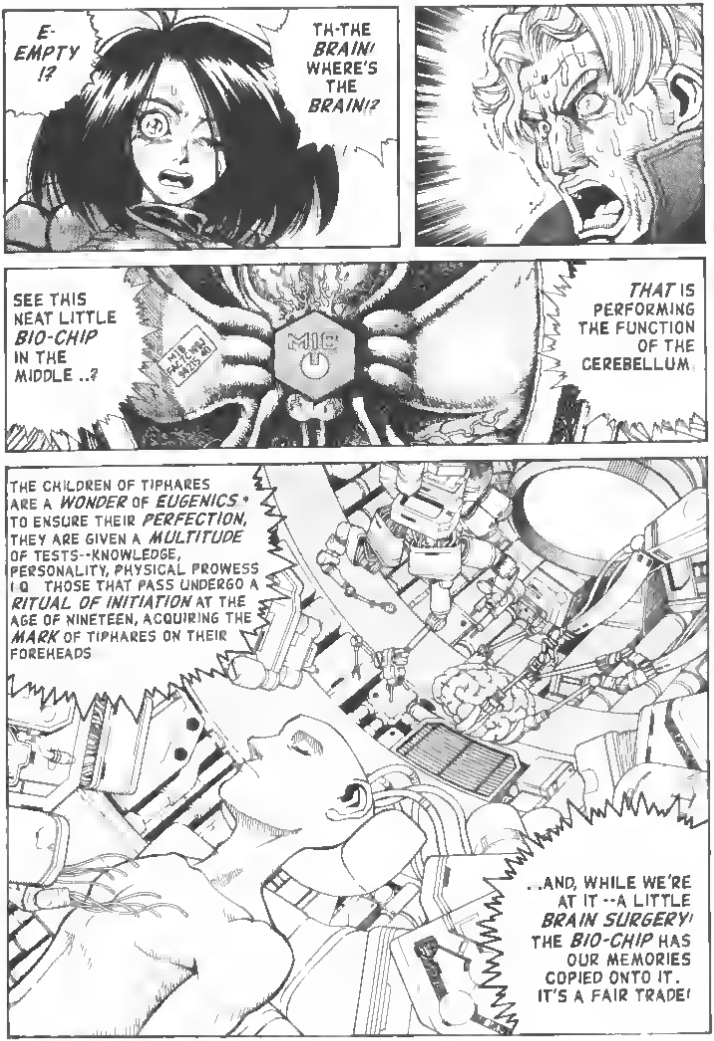
!
SUDO
O-OH, YES! IDO!
Tch
DID YOU GO SEE IDO!?
FLAWHAK
FOR THAT I THANK YOU--
--YOU DID MAKE GOOD ON YOUR PROMISE TO BRING IDO BACK TO LIFE.
Ggh
Ggh
NGH!
BUT TELL ME!
WHAT IS THE SECRET OF TIPHARES !?
!

IDO FOUND OUT.
AND HE.
HE
HEH, HEH HEH
SAMMM
"THE SECRET OF TIPHARES"?
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
.....
GLUP
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE
TO SURFACE-DWELLING MUCK LIKE YOU?


I DON'T CARE ABOUT TIPHARES.
I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHAT MADE IDO *SUFFER* SO MUCH.
GOOD ENOUGH !
I'LL *SHOW* YOU...
VWEEEEEN
..THE SECRET THAT DROVE IDO TO *MADNESS* !
VWEEEEE

SKLEESH
TEESH
PERSPLOOO
YERK.
!?
PROFESSOR
!?
GAAAH
!
KYA,
HA,
HA,
HA,
HA!
SKREE
TEEK
TAKE A
GOOD LOOK
NOW...

...AT THE TRUE FORM OF A TIPHAREAN !


E-EMPTY !?
TH-THE BRAIN! WHERE'S THE BRAIN!?
SEE THIS NEAT LITTLE BIO-CHIP IN THE MIDDLE ..?
THAT IS PERFORMING THE FUNCTION OF THE CEREBELLUM
THE CHILDREN OF TIPHARES ARE A WONDER OF EUGENICS* TO ENSURE THEIR PERFECTION, THEY ARE GIVEN A MULTITUDE OF TESTS--KNOWLEDGE, PERSONALITY, PHYSICAL PROWESS I.Q. THOSE THAT PASS UNDERGO A RITUAL OF INITIATION AT THE AGE OF NINETEEN, ACQUIRING THE MARK OF TIPHARES ON THEIR FOREHEADS
..AND, WHILE WE'RE AT IT --A LITTLE BRAIN SURGERY! THE BIO-CHIP HAS OUR MEMORIES COPIED ONTO IT. IT'S A FAIR TRADE!

*EUGENICS: A SCIENCE CONCERNED WITH IMPROVING THE GENETIC TRAITS OF THE HUMAN RACE THROUGH SELECTIVE BREEDING

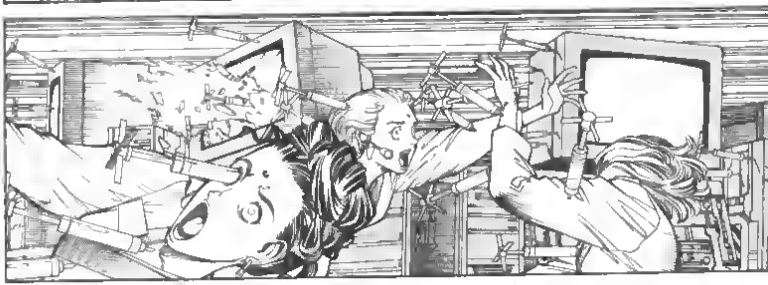
TREMBL
TREMBL
OF COURSE, THE MEDICAL INSPECTION BUREAU KEEPS THIS ALL *COMPLETELY* SECRET.
TWIK
TWOK
BUT ARE YOU...
...STILL. *HUMAN* !?
!
HEH, HEH, HEH.
I GUESS THE APHORISM "*I THINK, THEREFORE I AM*" BRINGS LITTLE COMFORT IN THIS CASE.
YOU HAVE THE BODY OF A MACHINE WITH A HUMAN BRAIN. I HAVE THE BRAIN OF A MACHINE AND A HUMAN BODY... SUCH *DIFFERENCES* MAKE THE WORLD GO 'ROUND, YES?
IOO AND *LOU*..
BUT *WHY*!? FOR WHAT *REASON*--!?

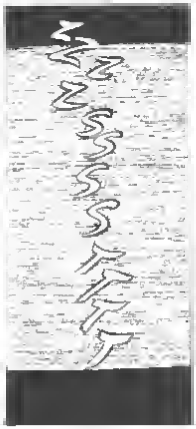
THE BIO-CHIP BRAIN HELPS CITIZENS CONFORM TO A *STANDARD*, BY ELIMINATING UNDUE *STRESS*--
--SUCH AS THE AWARENESS THAT THEY HAVE *NO CONTROL* OVER THEIR *LIVES*. STILL, DEFECTS CROP UP--AND PEOPLE WITHOUT A "*LIMITER*," LIKE MYSELF AND DOCTOR IOO, ARE CREATED.
THEN... WHAT IS TIPHARES !?
WHO MADE IT -- FOR WHAT PURPOSE!?
UNFORTUNATELY, EVEN I CAN'T ANSWER *THAT* QUESTION
MAYBE TIPHARES IS NOTHING BUT A GIANT *LABORATORY*
...AND THE TIPHAREANS NOTHING BUT *GUINEA PIGS*.
WHEN MY FATHER LEARNED THE TRUTH, HE *FLED* TIPHARES, IMMERSING HIMSELF IN HIS RESEARCH ON KARMA .

IT'S A LIE!
TH-THE INSIDE OF MY HEAD IS A. A MACHINE!?
TMP
TMP
TMP
WHAT'S WRONG, CHIEF?
KYEEEN
A HEALTHY BODY AND A HEALTHY PSYCHE! THAT'S THE FOUNDATION OF THE CITIZEN OF TIPHARES!
WHAT A LUDICROUS FAIRY TALE!
KRASH
CRUSH
SKREE
SKREE
SKREE
WE'RE NOTHING LIKE THOSE FREAKS ON THE SURFACE— REPLACING THEIR FRAIL BODIES AND WEAK MINDS WITH MACHINES!

SPOP
AHHH...
M-MY
...MY...
BRAIN...
BRAIN...
BRAIN...
HEH
HEH...HEE, HEE, HEE... MY BRAIN IS MISSING... AHEH, HEH, HEH!
blup

HEY, CAN I HAVE MY BRAIN BACK HEH, HEH...
YEEEEEE!
CH-CHIEF !?
ZISH
ZISH
ZISH
ZISH
BRAI--
AAAH!
SPLAT
BURF
MIB 35
FWUMP
TH-THE M.I.B. !




ヌヌヌ

ALITA, BEHIND YOU!
SHAA
WONK
UNGH
KYAHAHA! WELL DONE, BAZARLO!
SLEESH
VRMM
VRMM
SHAAA
BLAM
BLAM

KYA, HA, HA, HA, HA!
BULLETS CAN'T PENETRATE THIS HIGH-PRESSURE WATER BARRIER!
FWUP
I CAN'T DIE HERE LIKE THIS!
SPEESH
ZEESH
FARE-WELL!
NOVAAAA!

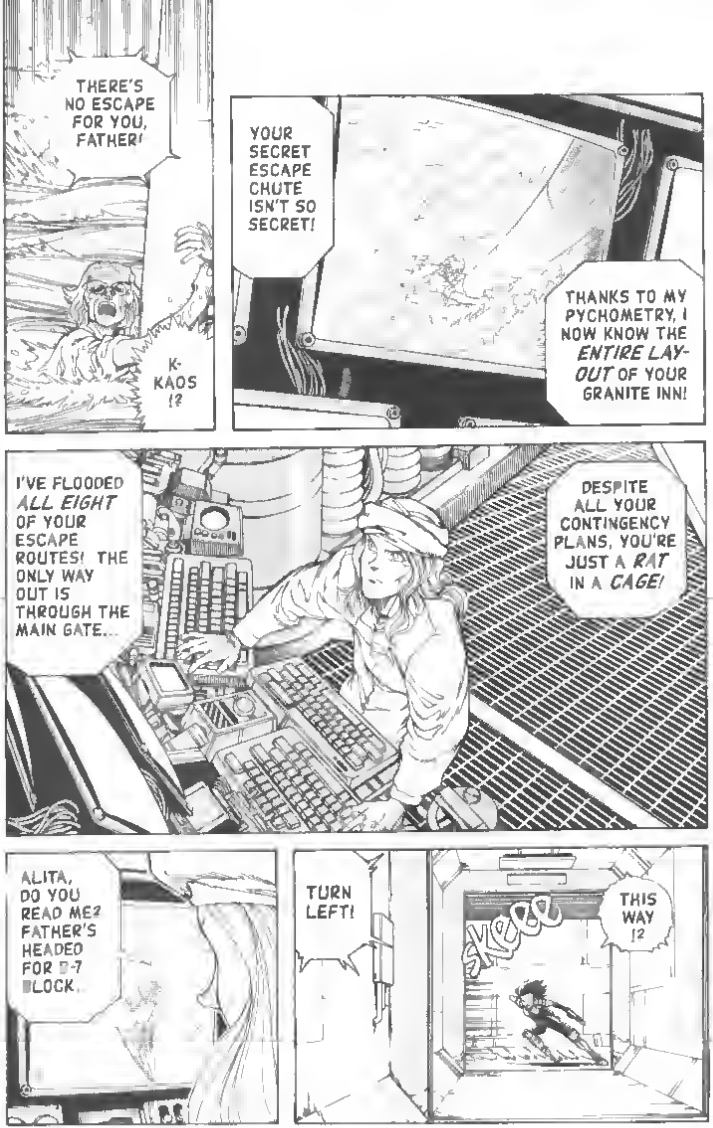
ZHORT
GOFF
UGH
OOFF
SKREEK
SH
THE ONLY WAY TO BEAT THEM...
DAMN! FORGOT THEY ALL HAD RESTORER NANOBOTS INSIDE THEM .!
SKRSH!
PUGHI !
SKLOK
WOOF!

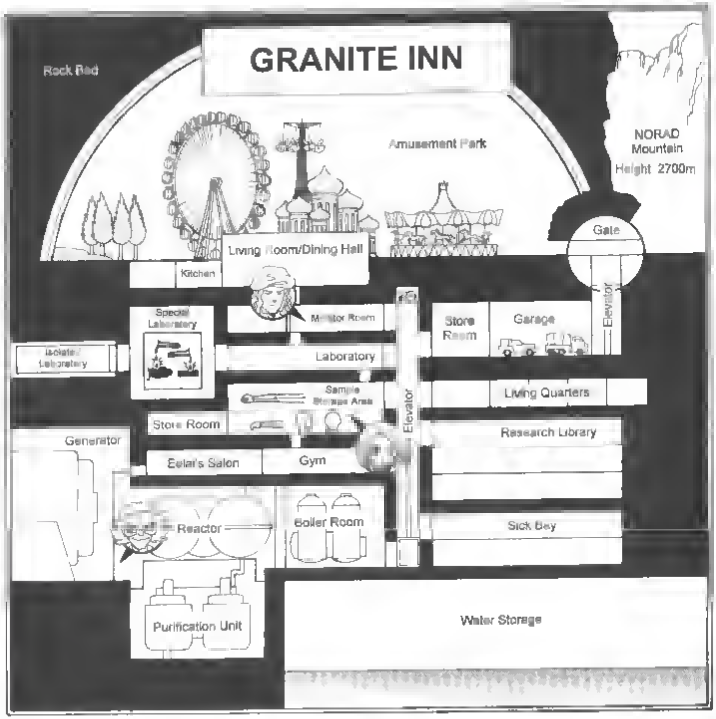
FWEE
EEEK!
.. IS NOT TO HOLD ANYTHING BACK!
SPLATTOR SH

KOAN
ALITA...
?
I DON'T GET IT..
IS KNOWING YOU HAVE A CHIP FOR A BRAIN ENOUGH TO DRIVE YOU MAD!?
ENOUGH TO MAKE YOU CAST AWAY EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE YOU'VE EVER LOVED!?
TO ME, IDO WAS ALWAYS IDO. NO ONE ELSE COULD TAKE HIS PLACE. BUT WHY...? WHY?

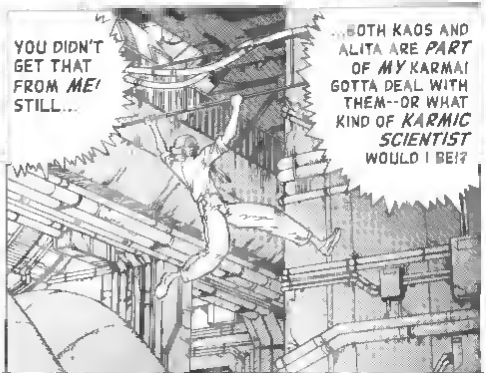
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU LOVED IDO...YOU COULD NEVER KNOW EVERYTHING THAT WAS IN HIS HEART, OR TRULY UNDERSTAND HIS SUFFERING
YOU MUSTN'T BLAME HIM...
UH-HUH...
FSSH
DO YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHAT TO SAY KAOS?
WHEN IT COMES TO HUMAN WEAKNESS... I'M AN EXPERT!
BUT THE TIME FOR WORDS IS OVER!
WE CAN'T LET MY FATHER ESCAPE!

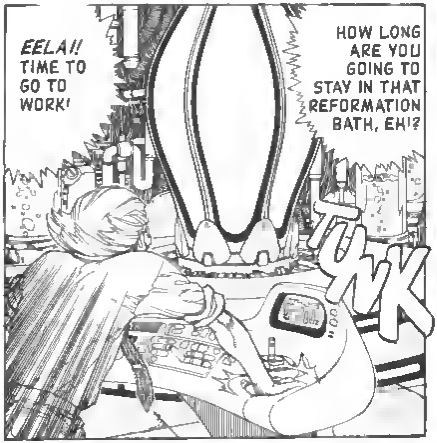
KYA, HA, HA, HA!
SWOOP
I'M OFF TO SEE THE LADDER!
TIP
TUP
TOP
THE OUTER ATMOSPHERE COUNCIL LADDER
THEY LIKE ME!
EXIT
CLIK
CLASP
YOW!
PLOOSH
WAAAAH!
SPALOOO


THERE'S NO ESCAPE FOR YOU, FATHER!
K-KAOS !?
YOUR SECRET ESCAPE CHUTE ISN'T SO SECRET!
THANKS TO MY PYCHOMETRY, I NOW KNOW THE ENTIRE LAY-OUT OF YOUR GRANITE INN!
I'VE FLOODED ALL EIGHT OF YOUR ESCAPE ROUTES! THE ONLY WAY OUT IS THROUGH THE MAIN GATE...
DESPITE ALL YOUR CONTINGENCY PLANS, YOU'RE JUST A RAT IN A CAGE!
ALITA, DO YOU READ ME? FATHER'S HEADED FOR D-7 BLOCK.
TURN LEFT!
SKEEK
THIS WAY !?


GRANITE INN
Rock Bed
Amusement Park
NORAD Mountain
Height 2700m
Gate
Living Room/Dining Hall
Kitchen
Special Laboratory
Isolated Laboratory
Monitor Room
Laboratory
Store Room
Garage
Elevator
Sample Storage Area
Living Quarters
Research Library
Generator
Eelai's Salon
Gym
Reactor
Boiler Room
Sick Bay
Purification Unit
Water Storage

PESKY CHILD!
TNG
TNG
TNG


YOU DIDN'T GET THAT FROM ME! STILL...
...BOTH KAOS AND ALITA ARE PART OF MY KARMA! GOTTA DEAL WITH THEM--OR WHAT KIND OF KARMIC SCIENTIST WOULD I BE!?


EELA!! TIME TO GO TO WORK!
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO STAY IN THAT REFORMATION BATH, EH!?
TUNK

BLUP
TEE-HEE! YOU SOUND A LITTLE BIT STRESSED...
. .LIKE YOU'RE IN A REAL BIND.
BLUP

BLUP
BLUP
BLUP
SHAAALOOM

MMMM...!
I FEEL...
REBORN!

SPLSH SPLSH
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ALITA?
I--I CAN'T DO THIS...
IF TIPHAREANS ARE GUINEA PIGS, EVEN NOVA *HIMSELF* IS A *VICTIM*.
THAT'S JUST TOO SAD.
.....
STEP INTO THE ROOM NEXT TO YOU...
?
CHIK

AIEEEA!
GYAAAAH!
YEEEEEG!
AAAAARGH!

TIP OF THE ICEBERG.
THESE PEOPLE WERE ONCE TRADESMEN AND FARMERS--INNOCENT, HEALTHY PEOPLE THEIR CHILDREN, THEIR FAMILIES--ALL TAKEN PRISONER BY THE BARJACK
IN THE TWO DECADES SINCE NOVA FLED TIPHARES, *TEN TIMES* THIS MANY SURFACE-DWELLERS HAVE SUFFERED SIMILAR FATES AT HIS HANDS--CUT UP AND MUTILATED TO SATISFY HIS NEED FOR SCIENTIFIC GRATIFICATION.
...!
OH!
GRUP
P PLEASE KILL ME *PLEASE*
!
K-KILL ME...
U

KABLAM
ALITA!
BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM
TRRP
RIP
RRRP

KAOS..
YOU'RE RIGHT.
HFF
HFF
WE'RE THE ONLY TWO WHO CAN STOP NOVA!
AND THAT MAN MUST BE STOPPED!
TIPHARES AND MY OWN FEELINGS BE DAMNED!
TEE, HEE...
EMOTIONAL AS EVER..
!

LITTLE ALITA...
...EVER WONDER *WHEN* YOU'RE GOING TO DIE?
SASH
ETERNAL BEAUTY.. AN UNDYING BODY... THANKS TO THE PROFESSOR'S NANOTECHNOLOGY, I'VE BECOME AN *IMMORTAL*...
I'VE NO NEED TO
I NEVER HAVE

SO ANY ENEMY OF MY DARLING PROFESSOR NOVA...
...IS AN ENEMY OF MINE!
LOOOK
!?
SHAAAA
BLAM BLAM
HA, HA, HA!
SBSH
TASH

SHE'S USING A WATER PRESSURE CONVERTER !
IT SHOOTS A HIGH-PRESSURE STREAM OF WATER AT SUPERSONIC SPEEDS! THAT BLAST CAN CUT THROUGH STEEL AS IF IT WERE JELLY!
SKSSH
SPEEESH
IT'S SO UNSATISFYING TO CARVE UP A CYBORG! NOT ENOUGH PAIN .
SKSSHH
SPISH
SKSH
ALITA WON'T BE ABLE TO DODGE HER ATTACK FOR LONG!
RUN, ALITA! RUN!
WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF REAL FLESH--ITS JOYS AND PAINS-- YOU HAVE NO REASON TO LIVE!

COMPARED TO THE PLEASURES OF THE FLESH, WORDS LIKE LOVE AND DREAMS, HONOR AND IDEALS THEY'RE NOTHING BUT THE MOLD THAT GROWS ON CHEESE!
I AM FLESH!
FLESH IS EVERY-THING!
SHSH
KAFWANG

LOOKS LIKE EVEN NOVA'S NANO TECHNOLOGY COULDN'T REPAIR THE *UGLINESS* IN *YOUR* SOUL!
HEAR *THAT*, SAUSAGE WOMAN ?!
HOW *DARE* A MERE *BRAIN* IN A *BOX* TALK TO *ME* LIKE THAT ..!
THE DAMASCUS BLADE IS *USELESS* AGAINST HER!
HIGH-PRESSURE WATER IS USED TO *SHARPEN* THAT BLADE! YOU CAN'T DEFEAT HER WITH THAT!

YAAAARGH!
ZUWAASHH
PLEASE! SUCH A DRAMATIC SWING FROM SO FAR AWAY? HARDLY A THREAT ...!
HIGH-PRESSURE SHIELD !!
SHAAASH
SPLEEEESH
YAAAAH!

SOLA
TEESH

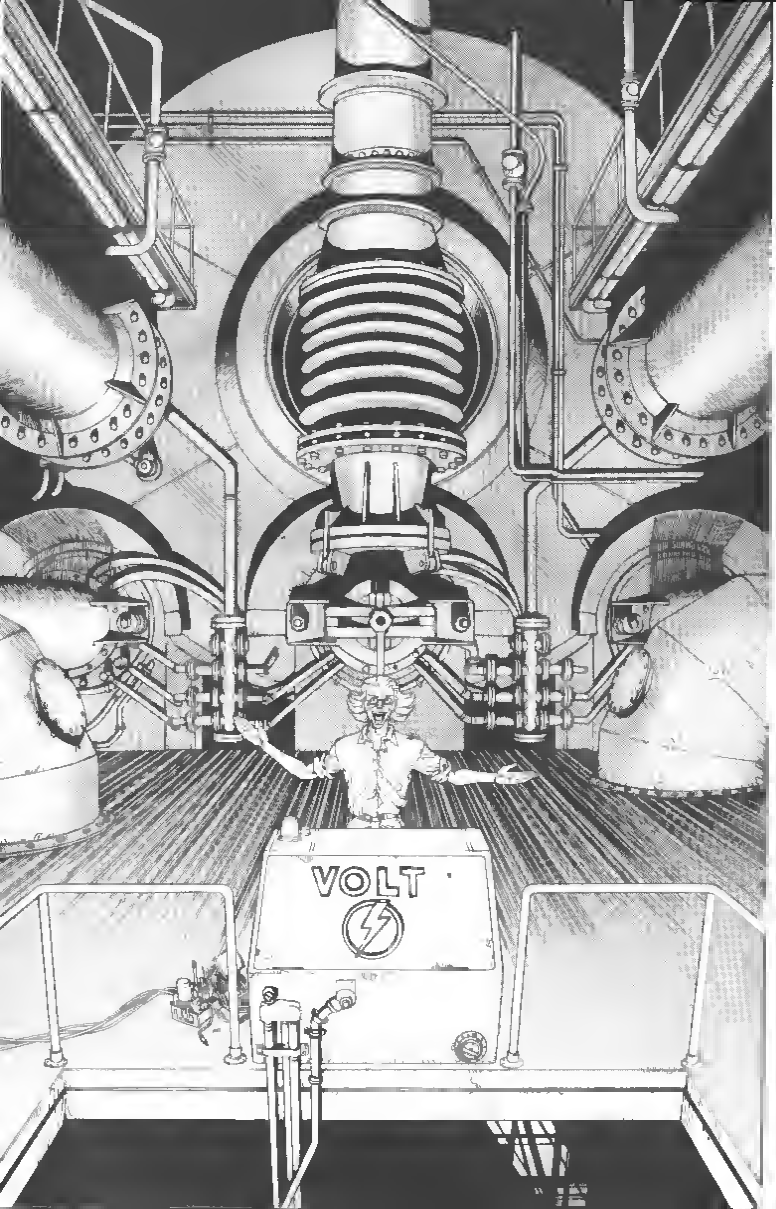
SKASH
N-NO I..I CAN'T..
SPURSH
I CAN'T DIE--!
BLOOSH
I--I SEE! IF THE BLADE GOES FASTER THAN THE SPEED OF THE WATER STREAM, IT CAN BREAK THROUGH IT!
MY ANGER IS BEYOND SUPER-SONIC !

OUROBOROS II

Challenge 2: Gun Dreams

PING PAK
PING PAK
PING PAK
PAK
PING PAK
BE CAREFUL!
YOU KNOW MY FATHER'S MIND- HE'S BOUND TO HAVE A TRAP SET FOR YOU!
YA, HA, HA! AH, KAOS!

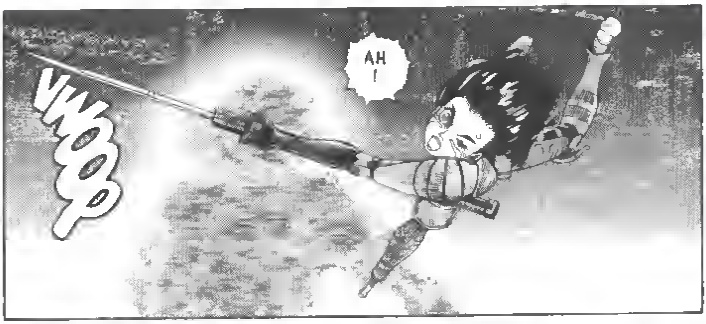
I CAN FEEL THE MOVEMENT OF EVERY AIR MOLECULE AROUND ME NOW.!
I CAN SENSE THE SMALLEST CURRENT OF ELECTRICITY WITHIN FIFTEEN METERS.! EVEN SEE ITS COLOR!
I'VE NEVER FELT CHI SO POWERFUL WITHIN ME!
I WILL DEFEAT HIM!
NO MATTER WHAT KIND OF TRAP HE'S GOT WAITING FOR ME!
HE WON'T STOP ME!
SMASH!

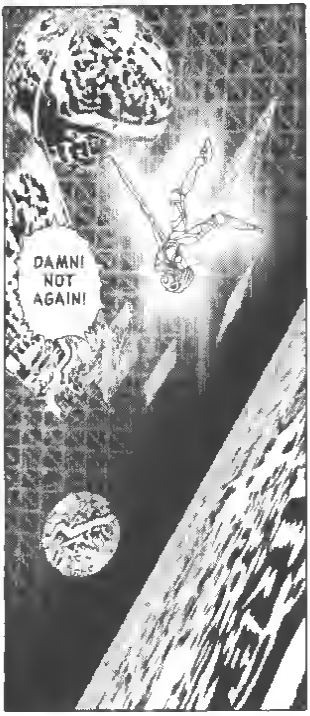

VOLT

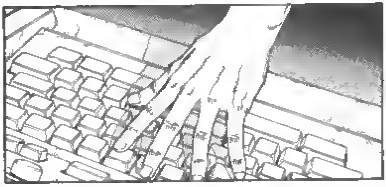
"LET THE
ANGELS
DO
BATTLE

"AND
LET THE
SOLDIERS
REST."

YOU THINK
YOU'VE
BECOME
SOME KIND
OF GOD!?


VWOOP
AH !

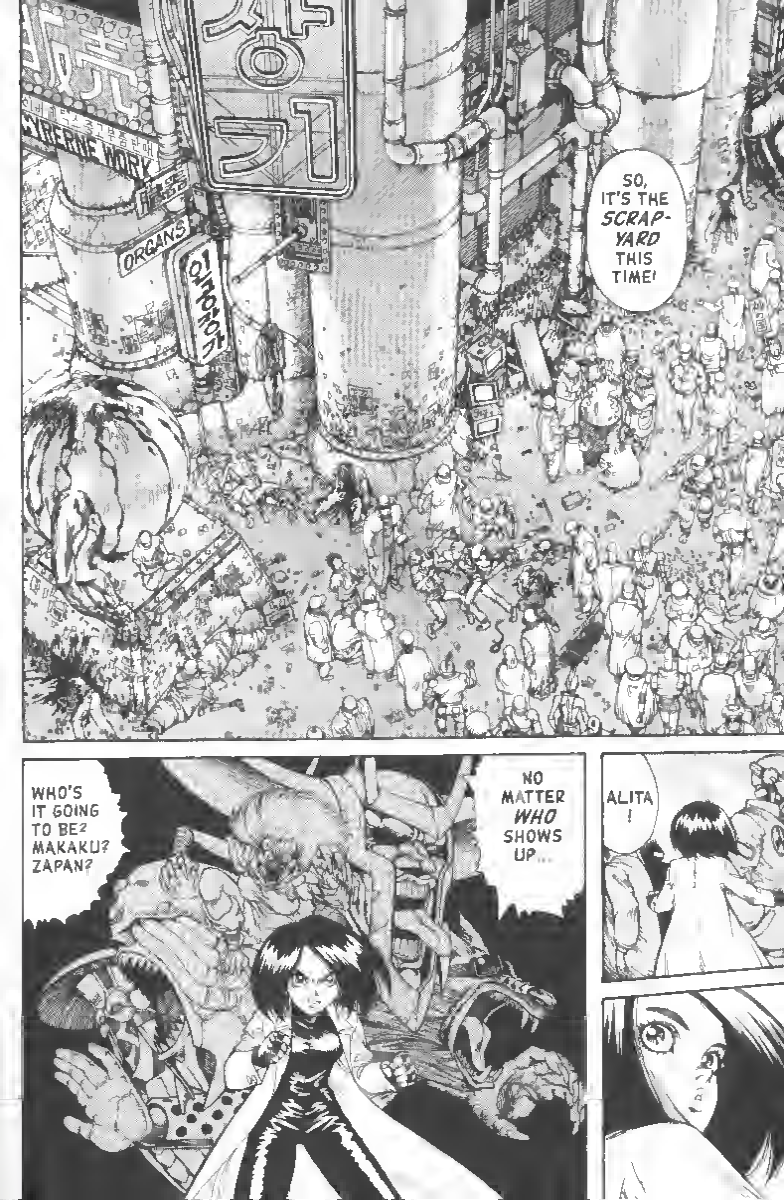

DAMN! NOT AGAIN!

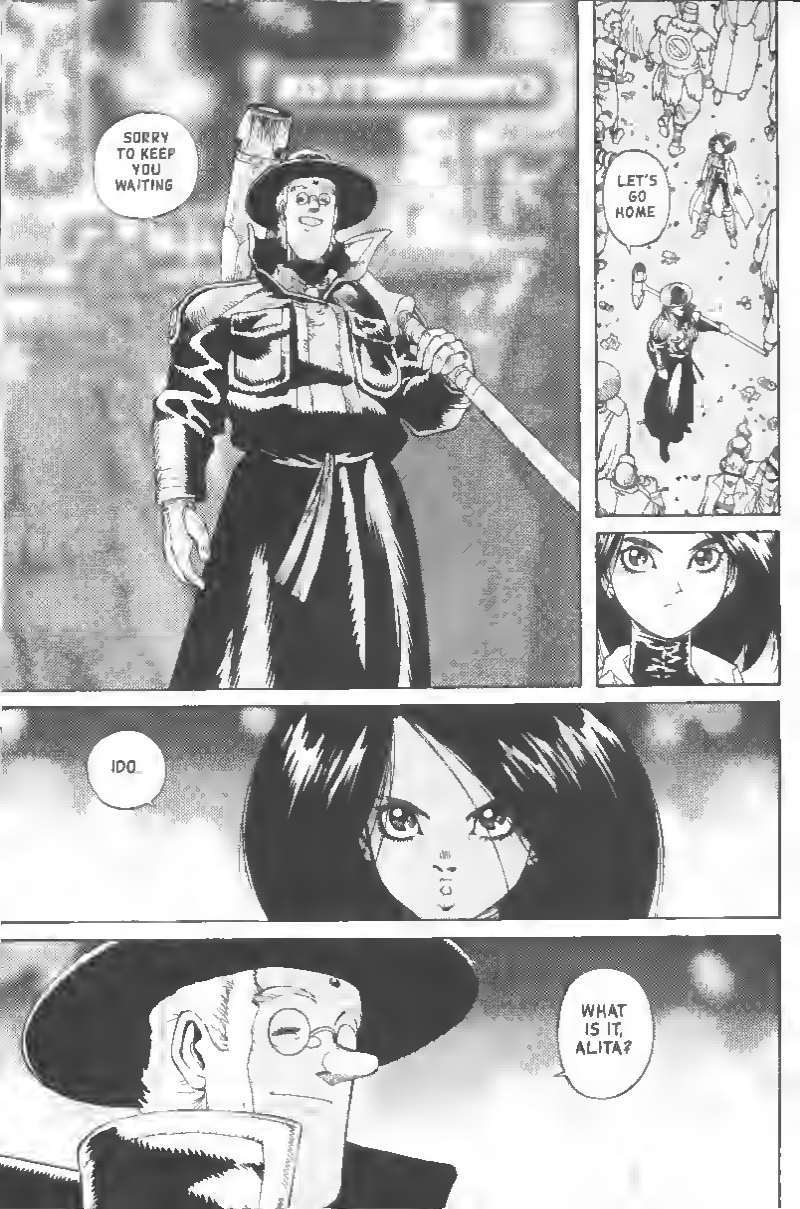


WHUD

IMPRESSIVE ALTHOUGH I'VE TAKEN CONTROL OF HER CONSCIOUSNESS SHE STILL LANDS PERFECTLY
I DON'T DARE EVEN APPROACH HER, LEST I GET SLASHED
FATHER THE OUROBOROS PROGRAM WILL NO LONGER WORK AGAINST ALITA!
PSHAW! THE G.I.B. MAY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN THE TUNED'S DIGITAL COM-LINK IS DOWN
I CAN ACCESS THE OUROBOROS PROGRAM THAT I HACKED INTO ALITA'S MIND AT ANY TIME!
BUT I'M NO LONGER CONTENT TO JUST TOY WITH HER SUB-CONSCIOUS.
GRAA
I, TOO, HAVE RETURNED FROM THE DEEPEST HELL OF MAN'S DESPAIR AND MADNESS!
I'LL ENTER HER DREAMS.
AND DESTROY THE VERY ESSENCE OF HER WILL TO DO BATTLE!
I WILL SEE HER BEG!

YOU JUST SIT QUIETLY IN THIS WORLD, AND OBSERVE!
OH, ALITA...
.....
?!
VASH!


CYBERNETIC WORKS
ORGANS
SO, IT'S THE SCRAP-YARD THIS TIME!
WHO'S IT GOING TO BE? MAKAKU? ZAPAN?
NO MATTER WHO SHOWS UP...
ALITA !

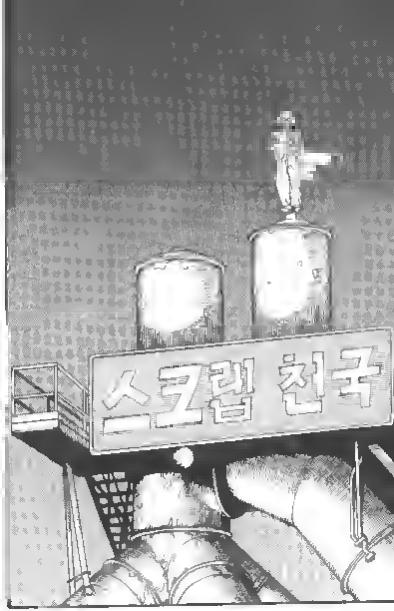

SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING
LET'S GO HOME
IDO...
WHAT IS IT, ALITA?

I'M SORRY!
PAKLEESH

SPLORPPP

FUCK NAZI

HFF
TH-THIS DREAM...
UFF
HFF
UFF
HFF
UFF
...IT WON'T END!
HFF
UFF
HFF

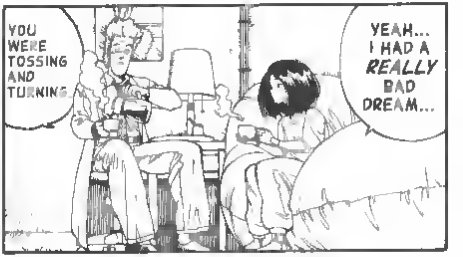

스크림 천국

HEH, HEH, HEH! HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH YET?

WOON

UHN...

GOOD MORNING, ALITA
MORNING, IDO


YOU WERE TOSSING AND TURNING...
YEAH... I HAD A REALLY BAD DREAM...

.....
??!?

NO... THIS ISN'T RIGHT!

THIS IS THE DREAM!
I'M INSIDE NOVA'S TRAP!
IDO .. I'VE GOT TO GO.
SKERSH
!?
I'M INSIDE MY OWN DREAM.
A DREAM, HUH?

POW
OWW!
YEAH... IT'S REALLY WELL MADE.
BUT IN REALITY THIS CLINIC WAS DESTROYED OVER TEN YEARS AGO BY ZAPAN--IT OOESN'T EXIST ANYMORE!
DOESN'T FEEL LIKE A DREAM.
HA HA HA
EVEN YOU, 100 YOU NO LONGER HAVE YOUR MEMORIES-- YOU'RE LIVING A NEW LIFE NOW
AFTER OEFEATING ZAPAN, I WAS ALMOST EXECUTED...
THE ONLY REASON I'M STILL ALIVE IS THAT I AGREED TO BECOME AN AGENT OF TIPHARES--TO TRACK OOWN OESTY NOVA...
I'VE BEEN WANDERING THE BAOLANOS FOR THE LAST OECADE-- WANOERING ANO FIGHTING... ANO NOW...

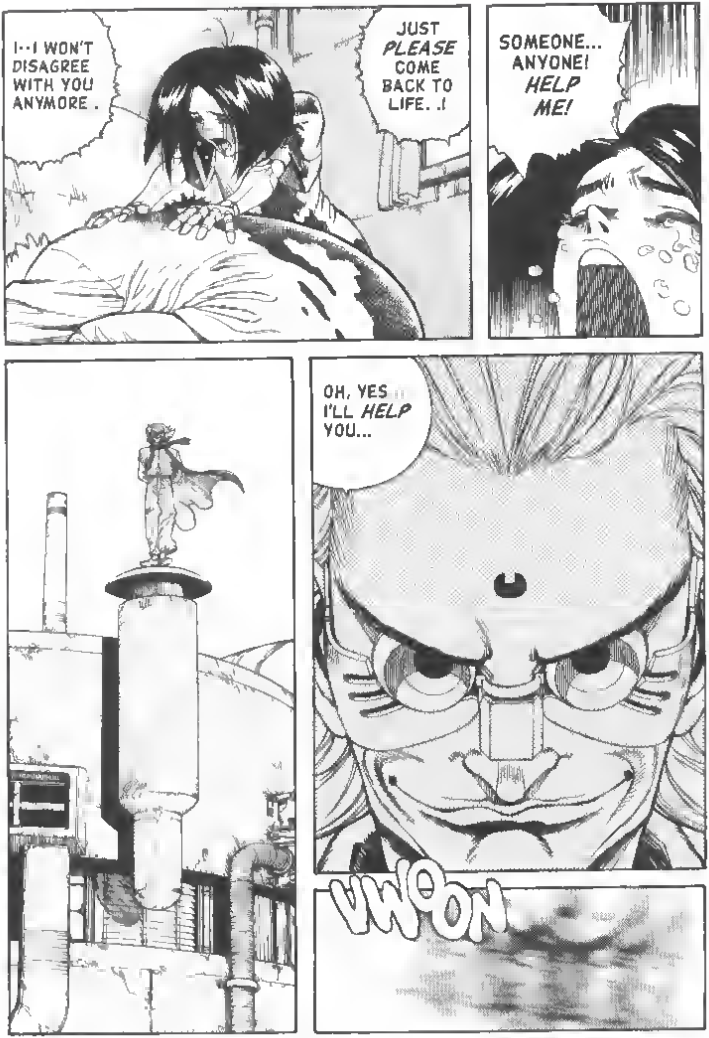
IT'S OKAY, REALLY.
NO, IT'S *NOT* OKAY...!
IT *IS*
THIS--IT'S ALL A *DREAM!*

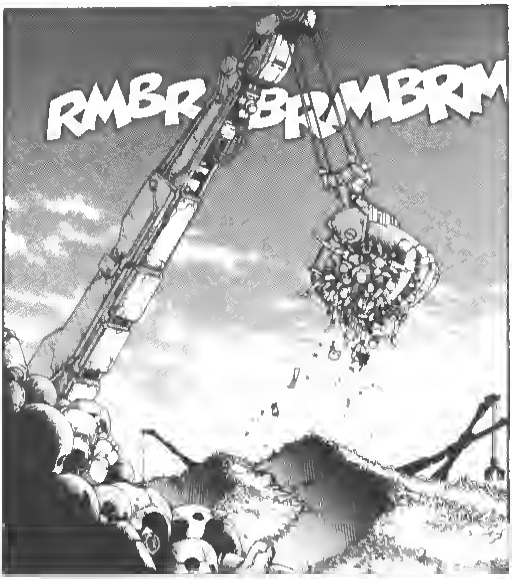
OH, ALITA! EVEN IF IT COST ME MY *LIFE*...
...I WOULD *NEVER* LET YOU SUFFER THIS MUCH SADNESS
DEAR IDO...
THIS IS WHERE I *WANTED* TO LIVE. THE WORDS I *WANTED* TO HEAR. IF ONLY I COULD STAY HERE *FOREVER*...

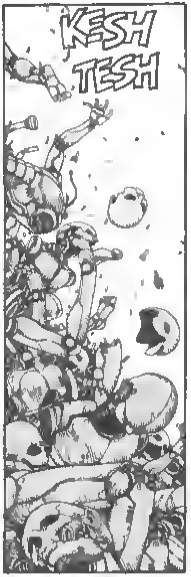
GLASH
IT'S OKAY... JUST... A DREAM...
ZLSH
ZLUMP

A DREAM

WHUD
I'M SORRY! I'M SO SORRY, IDO!
Tumpa Tump


I--I WON'T DISAGREE WITH YOU ANYMORE.
JUST *PLEASE* COME BACK TO LIFE..!
SOMEONE... ANYONE! *HELP ME!*
OH, YES I'LL *HELP* YOU...
VWOON

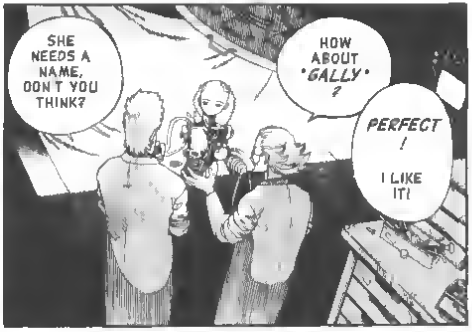

RMBR BRMBRM


KESH
TESH

HEH, HEH, HEH, HEH! DON'T YOU LOOK PRETTY
HEH, HEH, HEH
KYA HAHA-HAHA-HA!
WHO?
THIS MAN
SCARES ME

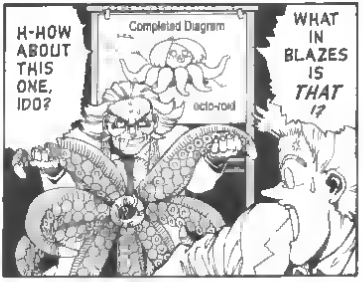
AH! WITH YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL STAMINA DEPLETED TO NEARLY ZERO...
...YOU PROBABLY DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO YOU ARE!
HEH, HEH, HEH
WHAT'S THAT, PROFESSOR?
OH, IDO... COME TAKE A LOOK.
A GIRL!? IS SHE ALIVE!?
NICE, ISN'T IT? SHE'S GOING TO BE TONIGHT'S EXPERIMENT
OH, NO-- YOU CAN'T, SIR! THE POOR GIRL!
CHEK
BUT I FOUND HER FIRST...!
I FEEL SAFE.. WITH HIM...
?
HOW ODD! OH, WELL...
...THIS WON'T PREVENT ME FROM DROWNING HER IN THE SWEET CREAM OF LIFE! I'LL WEAR AWAY AT HER BLADES UNTIL THERE'S NO FIGHT LEFT IN HER
HEH, HEH, HEH...

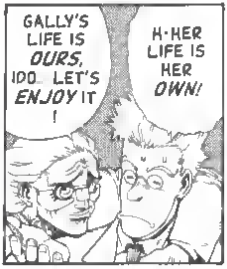
DAISUKE IDO CYBER-TECHNICIAN AND KARMA RESEARCH INSTITUTE
MAX HEADROOM 2 GO


SHE NEEDS A NAME, DON'T YOU THINK?
HOW ABOUT "GALLY"?
PERFECT! I LIKE IT!

STARTING TODAY, YOUR NAME IS GALLY!
"GA LLY"?

OKAY, NOW I'LL BEGIN RESTORING YOUR BODY.


H-HOW ABOUT THIS ONE, IDO?
Completed Diagram
ecto-roid
WHAT IN BLAZES IS THAT!?

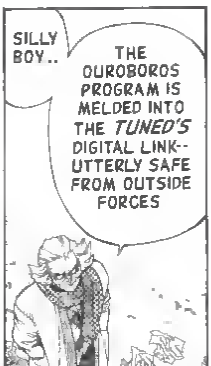

GALLY'S LIFE IS OURS, IDO. LET'S ENJOY IT!
H-HER LIFE IS HER OWN!

I JUST WANT TO MAKE HER BEAUTIFUL!

I GET IT! YOU WANT TO TURN HER INTO A LIFE-SIZE DRESS-UP DOLL...
WELL, UM... UH SORT OF...

AUTA!
I--I'LL RESCUE YOU FROM THAT DREAM-TRAP!
I'LL USE MY PSYCHOMETRY TO ENTER THE COMPUTER-- TO DESTROY THE OUROBOROS PROGRAM FROM THE INSIDE!
I'VE ALWAYS FEARED THE HEART OF A MACHINE
BUT I HAVE TO DO THIS! WHATEVER IT TAKES!
PSYCHO-ACTIVE !!

SKSSHHT


SILLY BOY..
THE OUROBOROS PROGRAM IS MELDED INTO THE TUNED'S DIGITAL LINK-- UTTERLY SAFE FROM OUTSIDE FORCES

TO THINK THAT HE IMAGINES A SINGLE HUMAN MIND CAN TAKE ON THE HYPER-COMPUTERS OF BOTH TIPHARES AND MY GRANITE INN RIDICULOUS!
SUFFER, MY SON! REALIZE YOUR IMPOTENCE!

UNH
AGH
!?
M-
MY
HEART..
...IT'S
STOPPED
!
.....

FEH

FEH, HEH, HEH! HA, HA, HA!

HA, HA, HA!
HA, HA, HA!

POOM
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE ME, OLD MAN!
KATASHI

SKRAK
SKEESH
SHSSH
SSSSHTT
TAKE MY LIFE, YOU MADMAN...!

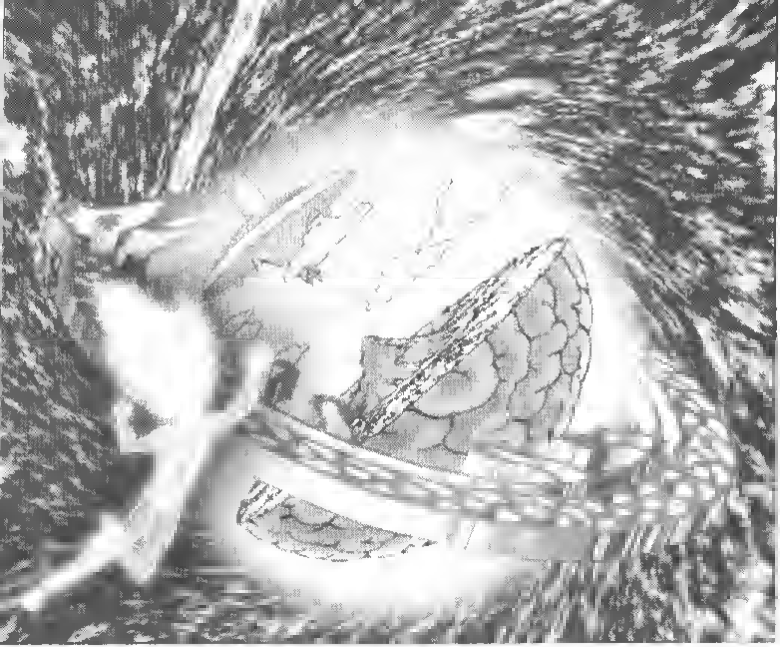
KEE

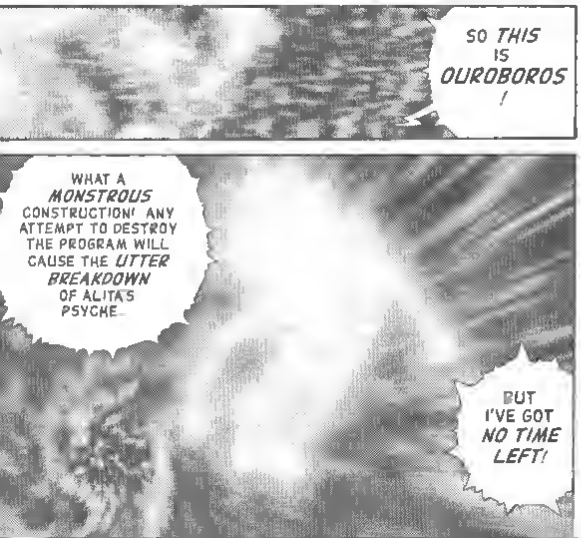
E

EE

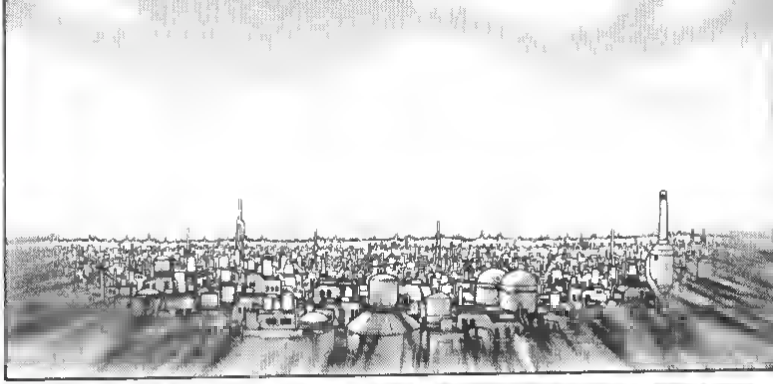
BEEP
BEEP
Ground Inspection Bureau
CHIK KACLIK
ZZZT
ZZZT
ZZWOAMM

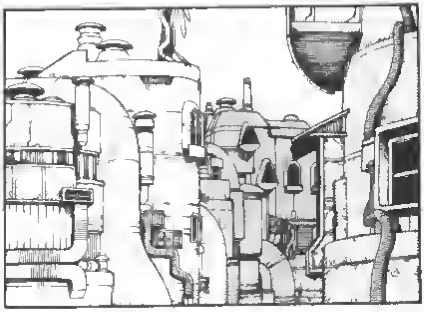
BA-BLAM

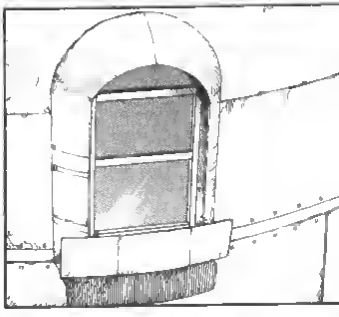



SO THIS IS OUROBOROS!
WHAT A MONSTROUS CONSTRUCTION! ANY ATTEMPT TO DESTROY THE PROGRAM WILL CAUSE THE UTTER BREAKDOWN OF ALITA'S PSYCHE...
BUT I'VE GOT NO TIME LEFT!

I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG MY BODY WILL LAST WITH A STOPPED HEART...!



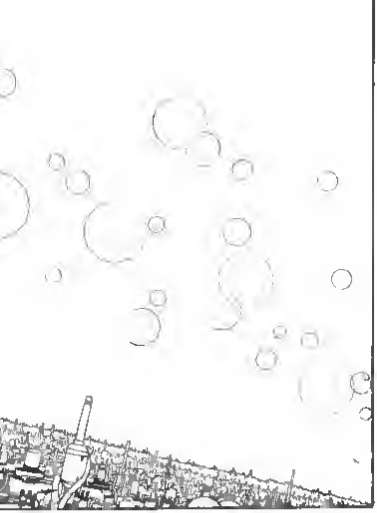


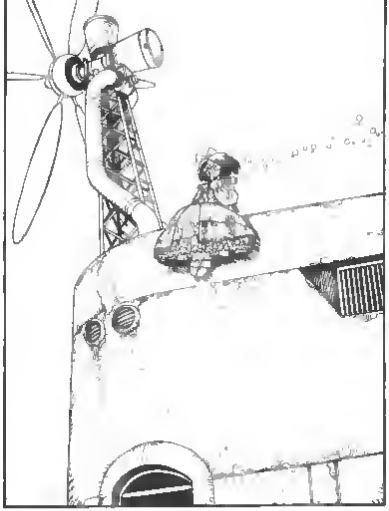


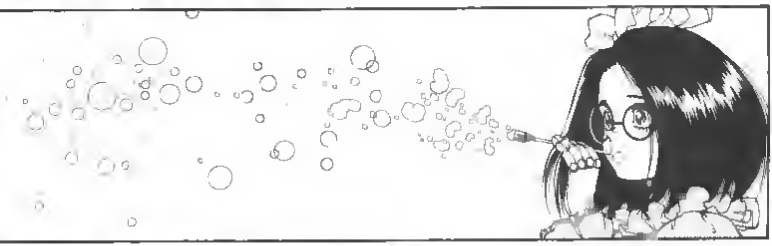
ALREADY A MONTH HAS PASSED IN THIS DREAM WORLD..
SO, LITTLE GALLY DO YOU WANT ANYTHING? I CAN MAKE YOU SOME FRIENDS! JUST NAME YOUR HEART'S DESIRE!
um!
I WANT SOME FLAN
ERK JUST ONE BITE
NOM
SOME DAY I WANT TO BE A DOCTOR LIKE YOU, IDO.
THAT'S NICE, DEAR--BUT IF YOU DON'T GET SOME EXERCISE, YOUR JOINTS WILL HARDEN
BUT I PREFER TO READ

HEH, HEH, HEH! TO THINK THIS GIRL IS THE SAME PERSON AS ALITA!
I'LL KEEP HER HERE A BIT LONGER SO THIS NEW PERSONALITY TAKES ROOT! BACK IN MY LAB, I'LL PERFORM NANO SURGERY ON HER BRAIN TO RID HER MEMORY OF THAT ICKY PANZER KUNST. THEN VICTORY WILL BE MINE...!
THUD
OH, ALITA'S HOME!
SHE'S ALL SCRATCHED UP! MUST'VE GOTTEN IN A FIGHT AGAIN
MEW
POOR KITTY
I NEVER SEEM TO GET ALONG WITH THAT CAT*
ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'LL POISON THE LITTLE MONSTER

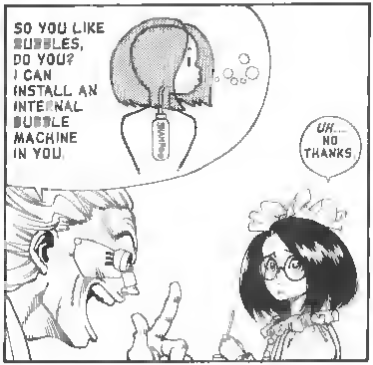
* "ALITA" WAS THE NAME OF IDO'S CAT WHO DIED BEFORE IDO FOUND ALITA IN THE SCRAP PILE (SEE THE FIRST BATTLE ANGEL ALITA GRAPHIC NOVEL)





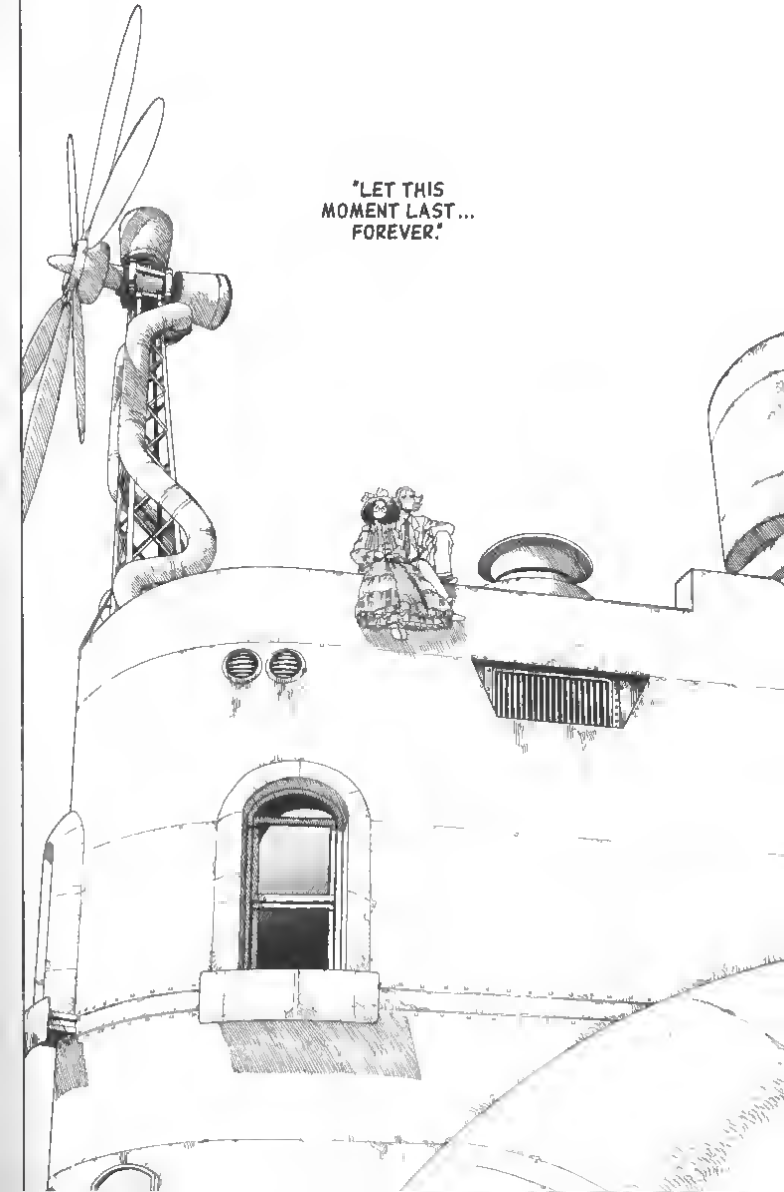


ARE YOU HAPPY, GALLY?


SO YOU LIKE BUBBLES, DO YOU? I CAN INSTALL AN INTERNAL BUBBLE MACHINE IN YOU.
UH... NO THANKS.

UNCLE NOVA, DO YOU LOVE SOME-ONE?
LOVE SOMEONE ?
HMM—
THERE WAS THIS ONE WOMAN I WANTED TO DISSECT ONCE, BUT

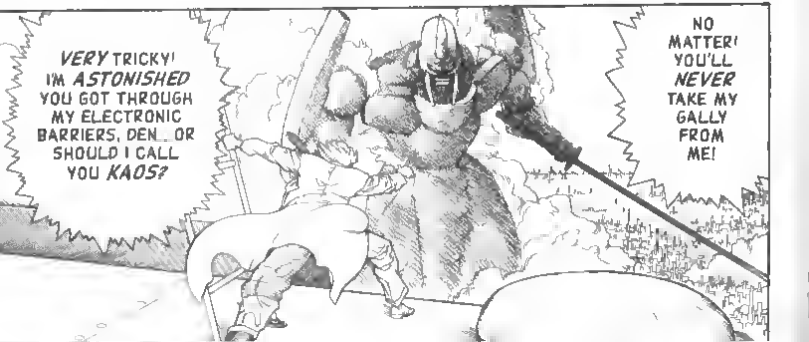
...UNTIL NOW...
...WHAT WAS IT I WAS *RUNNING* TOWARD...?
WHAT IS THIS *FEELING* THAT WELLS UP IN MY HEART...?
THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN END TO SUFFERING AND DEATH IN THIS WORLD...!
IF ONE CAN *TRULY* BELIEVE IN HAPPINESS.. ONE CAN ONLY HAVE *THIS PRAYER.*

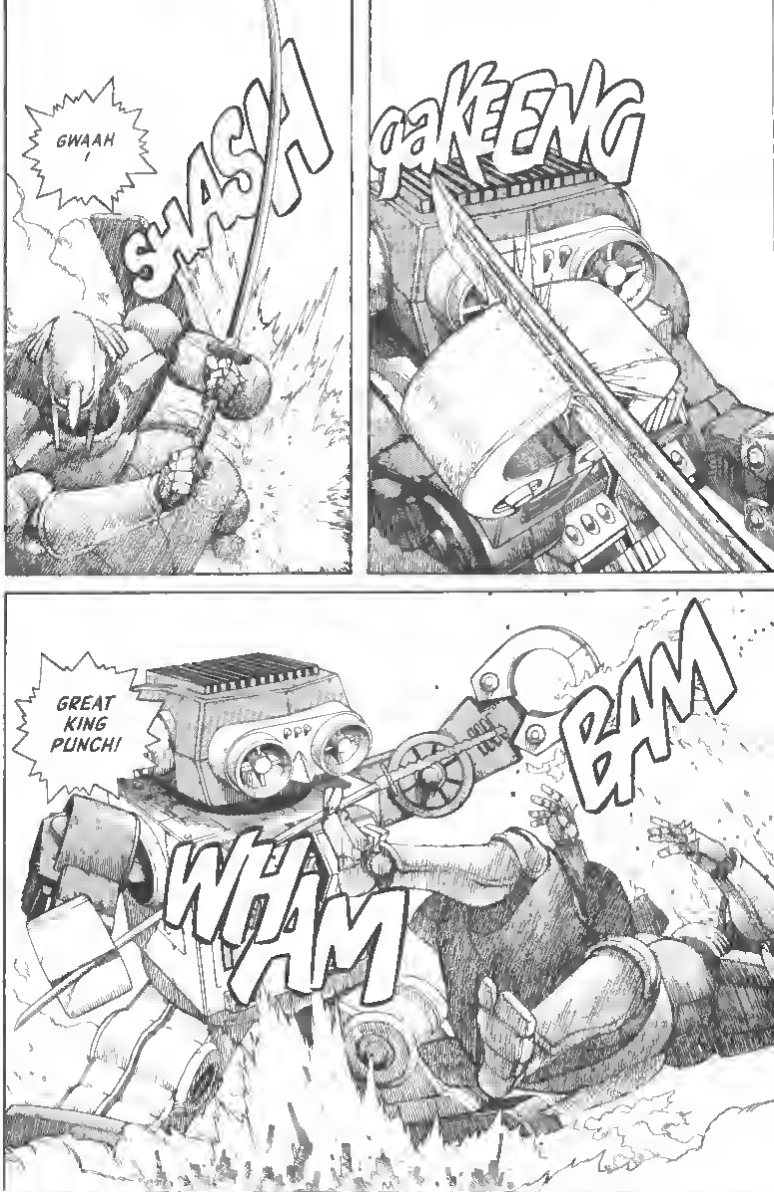

"LET THIS
MOMENT LAST...
FOREVER."

KRAKABOOM
BAWOOM
!?
WHSH
YAA-
ARGH!
FSHHAA

BOOM
BOOM
PROFESSOR! GALLY! GET INSIDE, QUICK!
IDO!
IDO. TAKE CARE OF GALLY FOR ME.
OKAY, PROFES-SOR!
UNCLE NOVA!
GREAT MARTIAN KING! TIME FOR BATTLE!
VUM
WUM
UM
UM

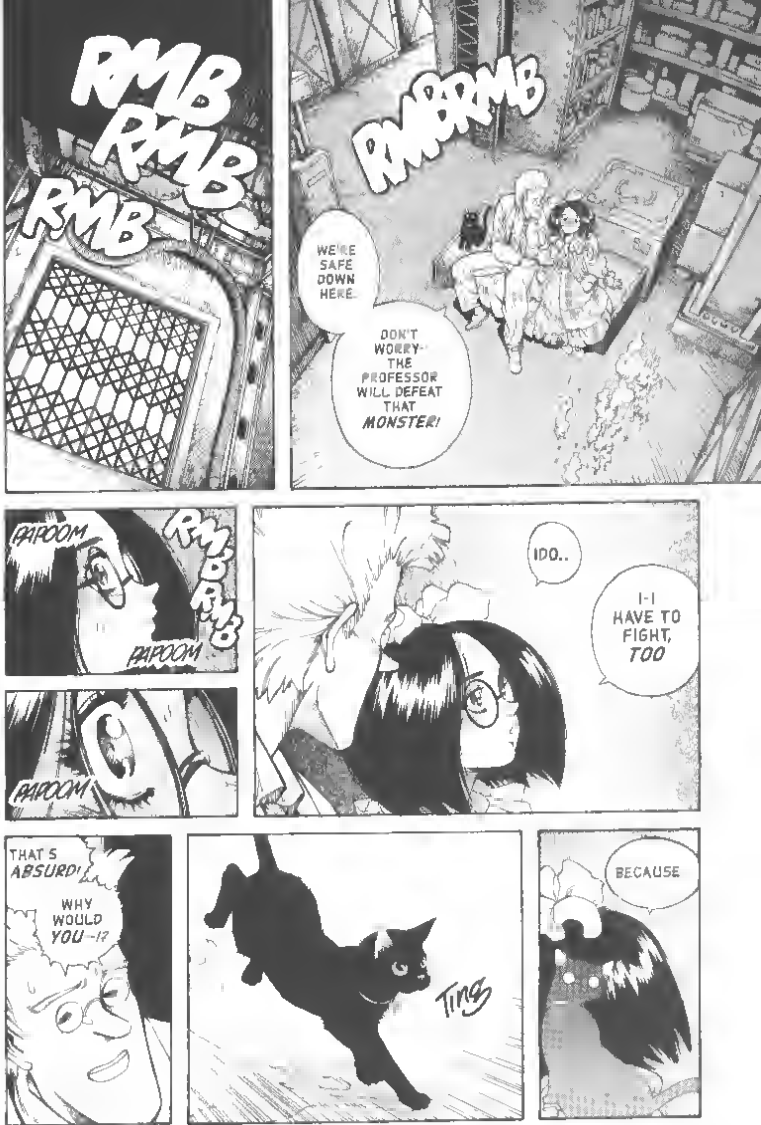
HAHAHA!
TONK TUNK TONK TUNK
GREAT MARTIAN KING
HEIGHT: 300 METERS
WEIGHT: 8,008,000 TONS (DREAM WEIGHT)
WEAPONS: GREAT KING PUNCH
GREAT KING CANNON ETC
SPECIAL ABILITIES: INVINCIBLE


VERY TRICKY! I'M ASTONISHED YOU GOT THROUGH MY ELECTRONIC BARRIERS, DEN_. OR SHOULD I CALL YOU KAOS?
NO MATTER! YOU'LL NEVER TAKE MY GALLY FROM ME!


GWAAH
SHASH
gaKEENG
GREAT KING PUNCH!
WHAM
BAM

NOW BECOMES THE PAST IN AN INSTANT -- AND EVERYONE WILL EVENTUALLY DIE!
WISSH
DESTINY TRIUMPHS OVER HUMAN KNOWLEDGE AND GOES MAD! THAT IS THE WAY OF THINGS!
GREAT KING CANNON!
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
I SPIT UPON THIS FRAIL, CRAZED WORLD!
I SPIT UPON THE SECOND LAW OF THERMO-DYNAMICS !*

*ACCORDING TO THIS LAW THE ENTROPY OF THE UNIVERSE CONTINUALLY INCREASES. A HOT CUP OF TEA WILL COOL OVER TIME WHILE THE REVERSE WILL NEVER HAPPEN. BY EXTRAPOLATION WE CONCLUDE THAT SPACE WILL EVENTUALLY GROW COLD REACHING A STATE WHERE NO STARS OR EVEN TIME EXIST


RMB RMB RMB
RMBRMB
WE'RE SAFE DOWN HERE.
DON'T WORRY-- THE PROFESSOR WILL DEFEAT THAT MONSTER!
PAPOOM
RMB RMB
PAPOOM
PAPOOM
I DO..
I-I HAVE TO FIGHT, TOO
THAT'S ABSURD!
WHY WOULD YOU--!?
TING
BECAUSE

...I'LL BE FIGHTING FOR *MYSELF*
.....
I *KNEW* THIS WAS A DREAM
. AND I LET MYSELF ENJOY IT
BUT NOW I HAVE TO GO
YOU BE CAREFUL.
ALITA

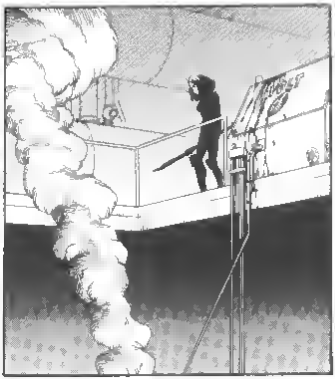
KWOOON
IMPOSSIBLE!
FWASH
ALITA!
PLEASE DON'T DESTROY IT!
TH-THIS IS MY DREAM!

IF THIS WERE STILL MY DREAM...
CHK
...I WOULD DO *ANYTHING* TO PROTECT YOU...

ANYTHING TO PROTECT THAT ETERNAL MOMENT
BLAM
WOOSH

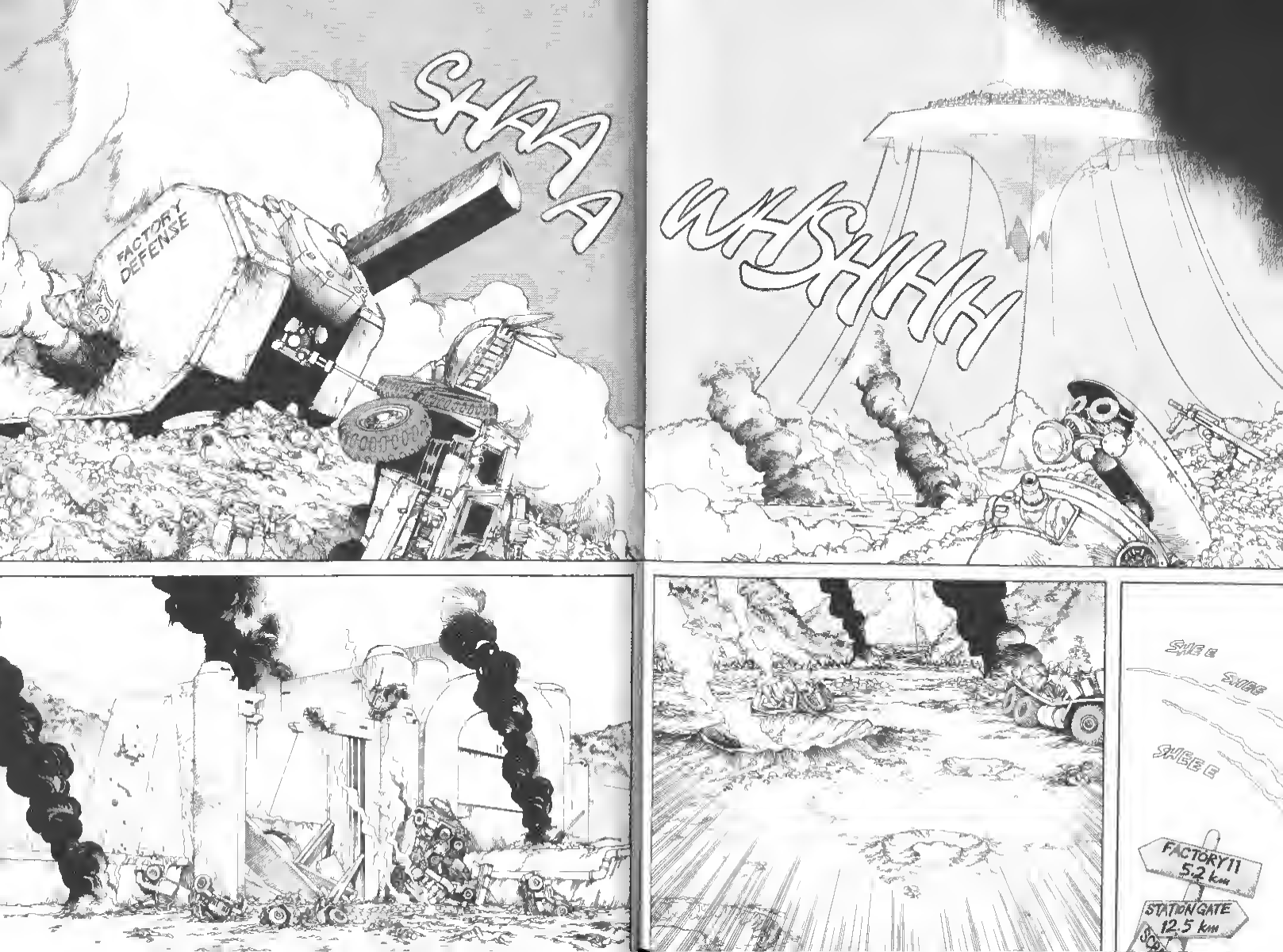
SKLSH

BZZT
BZZT



THE SAME GOES FOR ME...

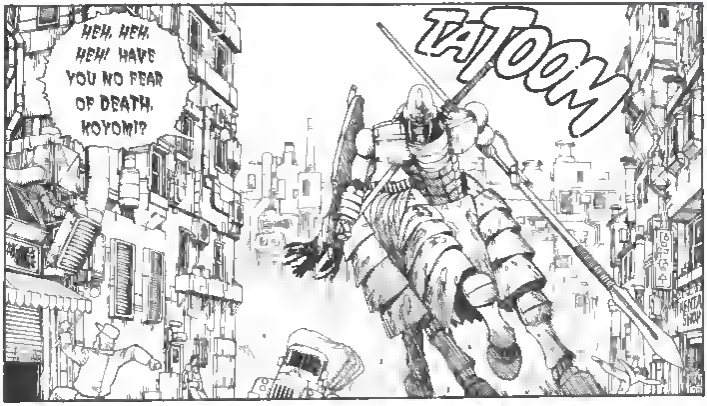
LAST BLADE
Challenge 3: Fortune


SHAA
FACTORY DEFENSE
WHSHH
FACTORY 11
5.2 km
STATION GATE
12.5 km

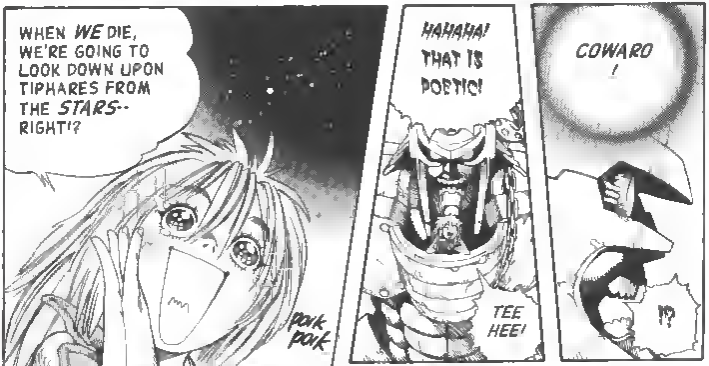
BOOM!
BWOOM
BOOM
TA
TOOM
TA
TOOM

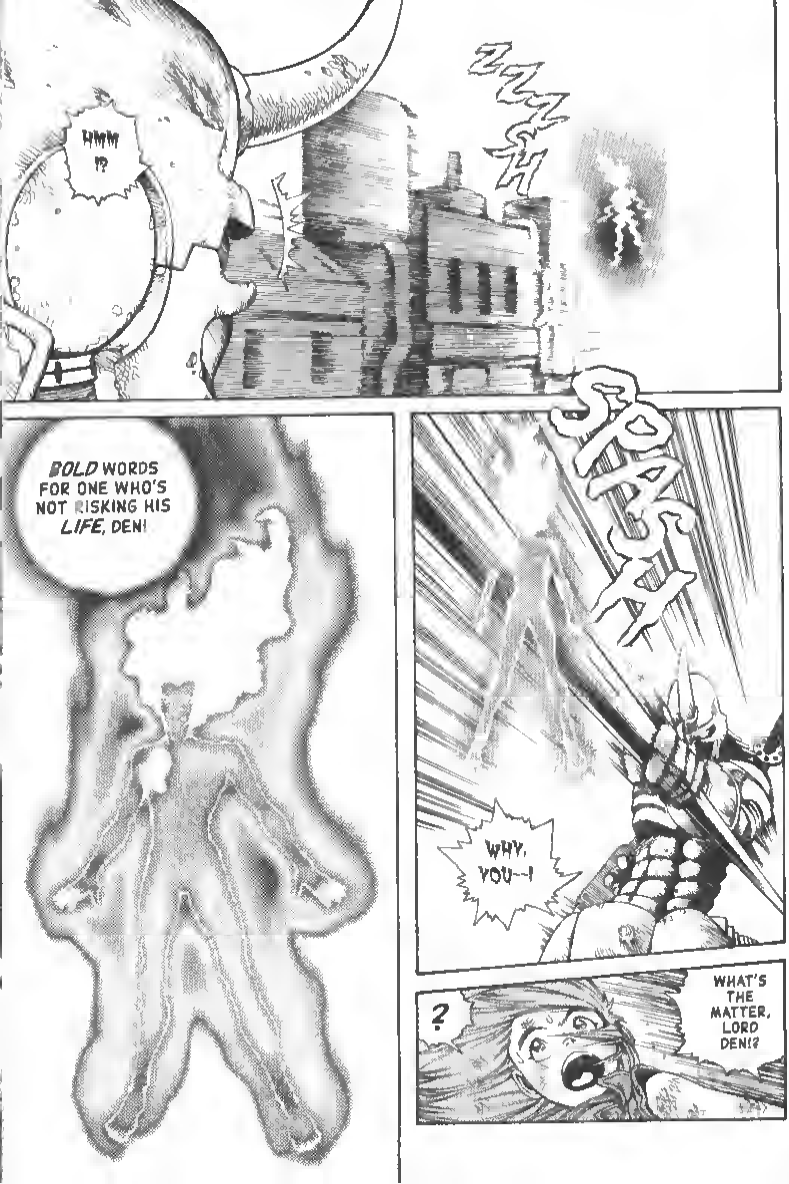
AAAAH! IT'S A MONSTER!
OH, GOD!
GYAA ARGH !!
SKRAK
TATOOM TATOOM
YEEEEK!
WAAAH! HE'S COMIN' THIS WAY!
ESCORT MEDIATOR

ALL I CAN SEE ARE MERCENARIES! WHY HAVE THE MAIN TIPHAREAN FORCES STOPPED?
KOYOMI? ARE YOU ALIVE?
...
BHAH!
KOFF
KOFF
I'M FINE, LORD DEN!
AWWW, MAN! AND I TOLD THEM TO EVACUATE, TOO!
KACHIK
IT'S YOUR OWN FAULT FOR NOT LISTENING! LORD DEN-- STOMP 'EM!
KERRIAT
AHHHH!


HEH, HEH, HEH! HAVE YOU NO FEAR OF DEATH, KOYOMI?
TA TOOM
KAITA SHOP

NAH! MY EARS HAVE BEEN RINGING FOR A WHILE. HELL, I FEEL LIKE I'M FLOATING ON A CLOUD
NO, I'M NOT AFRAID!
BESIDES, FURY AND ALL THE OTHERS ARE DEAD.


WHEN WE DIE, WE'RE GOING TO LOOK DOWN UPON TIPHARES FROM THE STARS-- RIGHT!?
PONK PONK
HAHAHA! THAT IS POETIC!
TEE HEE!
COWARD!
!?

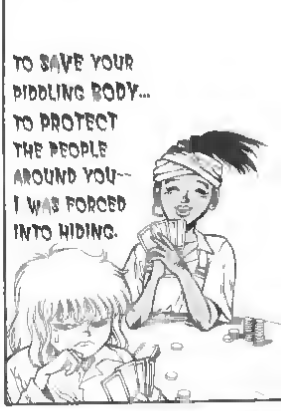

HMM
!?
ZZZSH
SPLASH
BOLD WORDS FOR ONE WHO'S NOT RISKING HIS LIFE, DEN!
WHY, YOU--!
?
WHAT'S THE MATTER, LORD DEN!?

YOU... YOU'RE NOT THE KAOS FROM BEFORE...
WHAT HAS HAP-PENED!?
TERRIFYING, ISN'T IT -- NOT TO KNOW ONESELF?
AFTER MEETING ALITA, I'VE BECOME... HUMAN.
DEN, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A FIGMENT OF MY PSYCHE, SEPARATED FROM MY BODY!
YOU, WHO HAVE NO LIFE OF YOUR *OWN*, CONTINUE TO WREAK DEATH UPON OTHERS! DO YOU THINK A *MAN* WOULD TOLERATE THAT!?
STOP FIGHTING, RELEASE KOYOMI, AND RETURN TO MY BODY!
FIGMENT!?
FIGMENT!?

SKABASH
YOU DARE CALL ME A FIGMENT!?
EEEK!
WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF ME!?
I AM THE CHILD OF YOUR UNCONTROLLABLE RAGE...

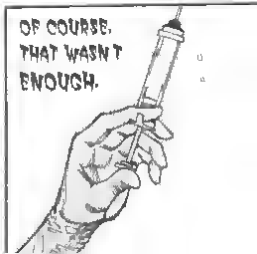
...RAGE THAT WOULD HAVE DESTROYED YOU!
?!
SKOK

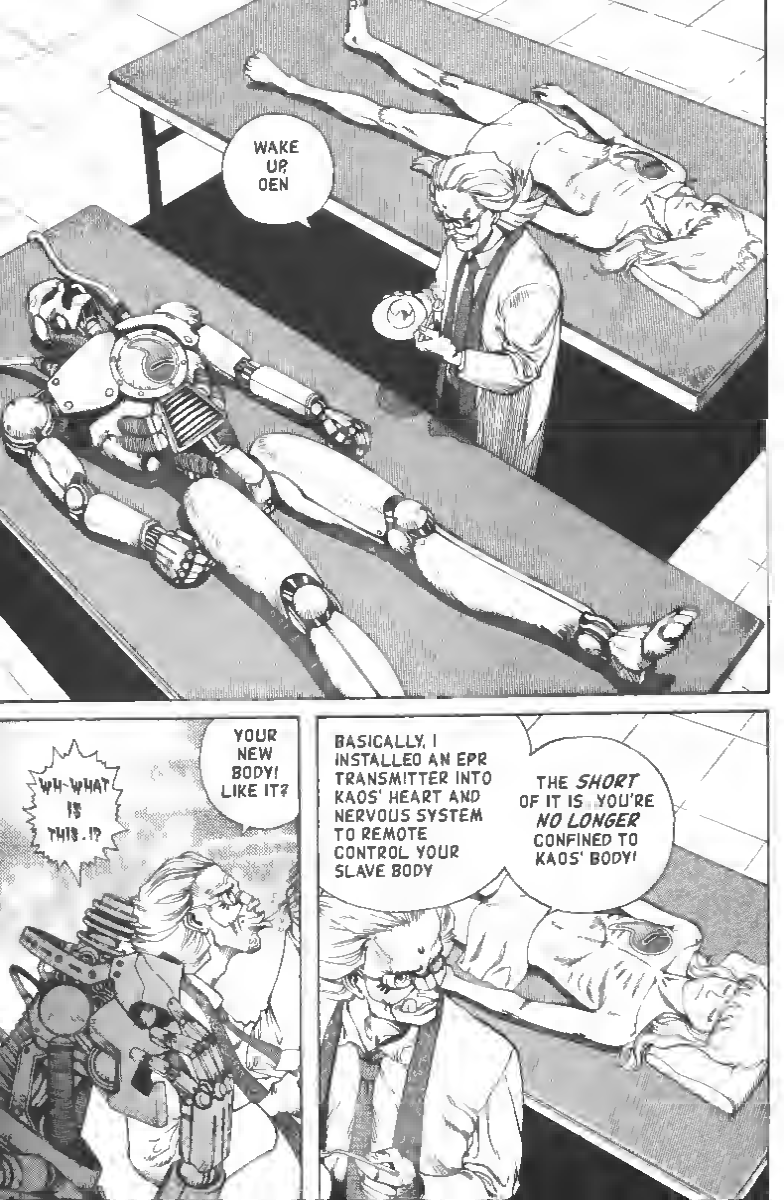
WAAAAAH! IT HURRRTS!


TO SAVE YOUR PIDDLING BODY... TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU-- I WAS FORCED INTO HIDING.

BUT IN MY FIFTEENTH OR SIXTEENTH YEAR, SOMETHING CAUSED ME TO LOSE CONTROL--NEARLY KILLING NOVA AND HIS ASSISTANT!

Y-YOU'RE NOT KAOS, ARE YOU?
THUS NOVA DISCOVERED MY EXISTENCE.


OF COURSE. THAT WASN'T ENOUGH.


WAKE UP, OEN
WH-WHAT IS THIS.!?
YOUR NEW BODY! LIKE IT?
BASICALLY, I INSTALLED AN EPR TRANSMITTER INTO KAOS' HEART AND NERVOUS SYSTEM TO REMOTE CONTROL YOUR SLAVE BODY
THE *SHORT* OF IT IS YOU'RE *NO LONGER* CONFINED TO KAOS' BODY!

I JUST LOVE PEOPLE WITH YOUR LEVEL OF WELL--PSYCHO-LOGICAL CAPACITY.
THE QUESTION IS, WILL IT CAUSE YOUR PSYCHE TO COLLAPSE BENEATH ITS OWN WEIGHT? ...HEH, HEH, HEH...
WE'LL SEE! NOW, GO FOLLOW YOUR HEART'S DESIRES.
AND SO I WANDERED THE BADLANDS. DISCOVERING MYSELF AS I TRAINED IN THE WAYS OF THE WARRIOR.
I FEEL RAGE. THEREFORE I AM!
UNQUENCHABLE. UNRELENTING... DESPITE ALL MY EFFORTS TO CONTROL IT! WHERE DOES MY MADNESS COME FROM?

I WAS BORN WITHOUT A BODY.
I DO NOT KNOW WHAT IT IS TO EXPERIENCE LOVE OR PEACE!
NO!
I AM A CHILD OF DESTINY, SUMMONED BY THE ANGERED SPIRITS OF EARTH!
ONLY THIS BODY IS BIG ENOUGH TO CONTAIN THE ANGER WITHIN ME!
I NEED A VESSEL SUITED TO MY ANGER. AN UNDYING BODY OF STEEL.. TO GOVERN THIS PARCHED WORLD!
I KNOW MY PURPOSE !

AND I HAVE SWORN TO DROP TIPHARES TO THE GROUND!
BUT YOU FAILED
GIVE UP! ADMIT YOUR DEFEAT!
I HAVEN'T BEEN DEFEATED YET!

RMTM RMTM
W-WAIT..! YOU CAN'T!
SHFFL
SHFFL
AH
P-PLEASE... GIVE ME MY DAUGHTER KOYOMI... BACK TO ME!
OLD MAN!
RMTM
SHMMM

YOU STUPID OLD BOOZER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE!?
PLEASE--! MY DAUGHTER--!
SHUT UP AND DIE! STEP ON HIM, MASTER DEN!
.....
GMP
ST- STOP !
WHAT ARE YOU OOING !?
AH AHHH !

YOU SAID YOU WERE NOT AFRAID TO DIE, KOYOMI.
LET ME DOWN!
ZWOOOSH
MASTER DEN! WHY!?
KOYOMI!
NOOO! I DON'T WANNA DIE!
ERGH...!
DEN-- DON'T DO IT!
IF I AM JUST A FIGMENT AS YOU SAY, THEN STOP ME!

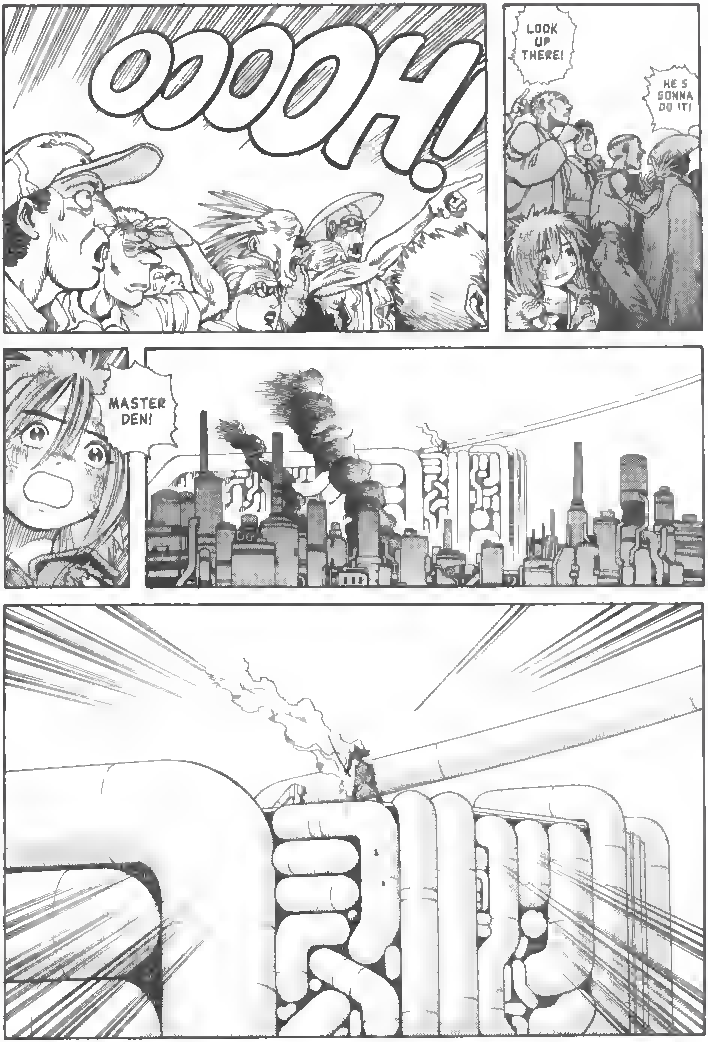
SPLAM
SPUSSS
PLEASE! I'M NOT READY!
KYAAA...
AA...
...AAH!
PIP
NNGH!
KRIK KREK
KURK KRAK
K-KOYOMI... YOU...ALL RIGHT!?
AH...
P-POP...?

TOOM TOOM
I AM DEN!
IN NO WAY AM I A PART OF YOU, KAOS!
DEN...
SLA BLAM!

BLAM-BLAM!BLAM
THE DEFENSE SYSTEM! IT FROZE UP WHEN THE G.I.B BLEW-- BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN RESTORED!
I HAVE LIVED BY STEEL...
...AND I WILL DIE BY STEEL!
NNAAA-AAAR-RGH!

CARMINA BURANA
From a 13th Century
Benedictine Manuscript

SOMEONE! HELP ME! ANYONE..! CALL A DOCTOR..!
K-KOYOMI... PLEASE... DON'T LEAVE ME AGAIN...
YOU STINK OF BOOZE, OLD MAN...


OOOH!
LOOK UP THERE!
HE'S GONNA DO IT!
MASTER DEN!

..BORN WITHOUT A BODY..
SHIT
ZZTK
SSSST
..NEVER FEARING DEATH..
..MY BLADE IS THE PEOPLE'S ANGER..

FEEL THEIR STRENGTH !
ｽﾗｯｼｭ

tang
skaKANG!

...
UNNGH
I WON'T GO BACK TO KAOS'S BODY..
TO DIE HERE...
ANG
ANG
ANG

KREK
...IS... FITTING.
SKREK
OOOOOH!
KA CHIK
KA CHIK
SKIK SKAK.
TOING!
I'LL TELL OUR STORY MASTER DEN! I PROMISE...!
THAT'S WHY HE LEFT ME BEHIND.

EPITAPH

Challenge 4: Memory

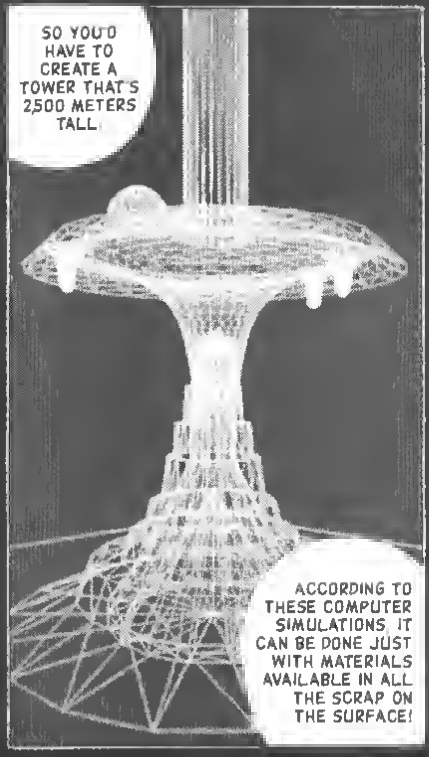
ZOLT
POOM
UNGH !
KOFF KOFF
UFF
HFF
ALITA
IS--IS THIS . THE GRANITE INN?
HANG ON, KAOS!
Y-YOU'RE SPEAKING! YOUR VOICE!?
IS HE DEN AGAIN !?
IT'S DEN--
--HE'S DEAD...

RMBRMB
RMBRMB
RMB
Tch
BAWHOOM

BOOM!
A LONG, LONG DAY.
...FELT LIKE A HUNDRED YEARS.
I'M HEADING TO THE SCRAP-YARD
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
ME...?
I GUESS I'M... FREE NOW.
THERE'S A PLAN I WANT TO SEE THROUGH AT THE SCRAP-YARD
KRSSS
WHAT'S THIS?
SOMETHING LOU GAVE ME WHEN WE WENT TO FARM 21 YESTERDAY.

I WAS *REALLY* TOUCHED BY THE LAST BROAD-CAST OF RADIO KAOS
I THOUGHT A WHOLE *BUNCH* ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID YOU KNOW ABOUT UNDERSTANDING EACH OTHER

...AND I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE A GOOD THING FOR SURFACE FOLKS AND TIPHAREANS TO--*TALK* SOMEHOW
TEKKA
FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, TIPHARES HAS TO BE CONNECTED WITH THE SURFACE.


SO YOU'D HAVE TO CREATE A TOWER THAT'S 2,500 METERS TALL.
ACCORDING TO THESE COMPUTER SIMULATIONS, IT CAN BE DONE JUST WITH MATERIALS AVAILABLE IN ALL THE SCRAP ON THE SURFACE!

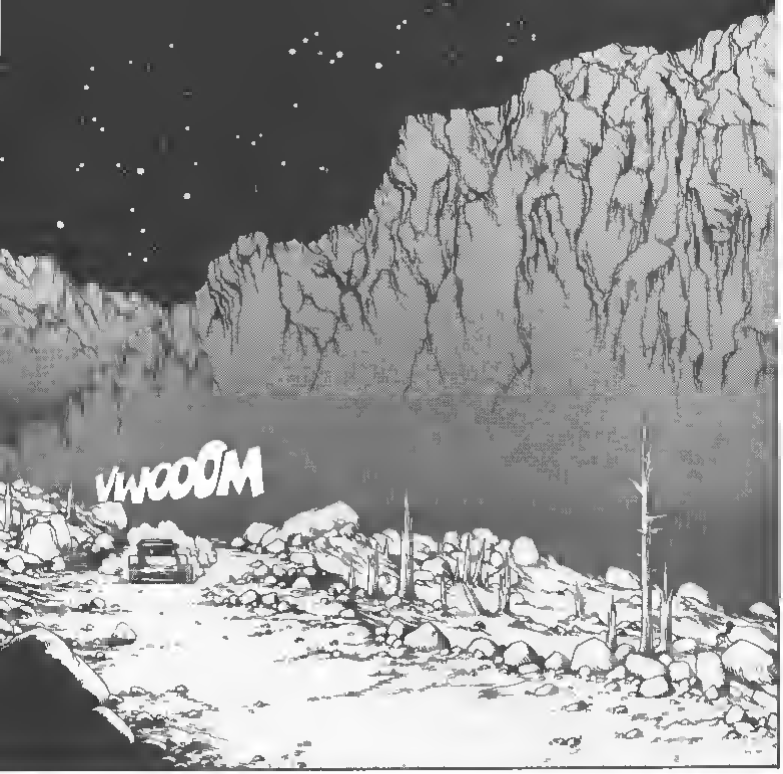
I CALL IT THE "TOWER OF TIPHARES"!
HMM?

WON'T YOU GET IN TROUBLE? YOU, A TIPHAREAN DOING THIS?

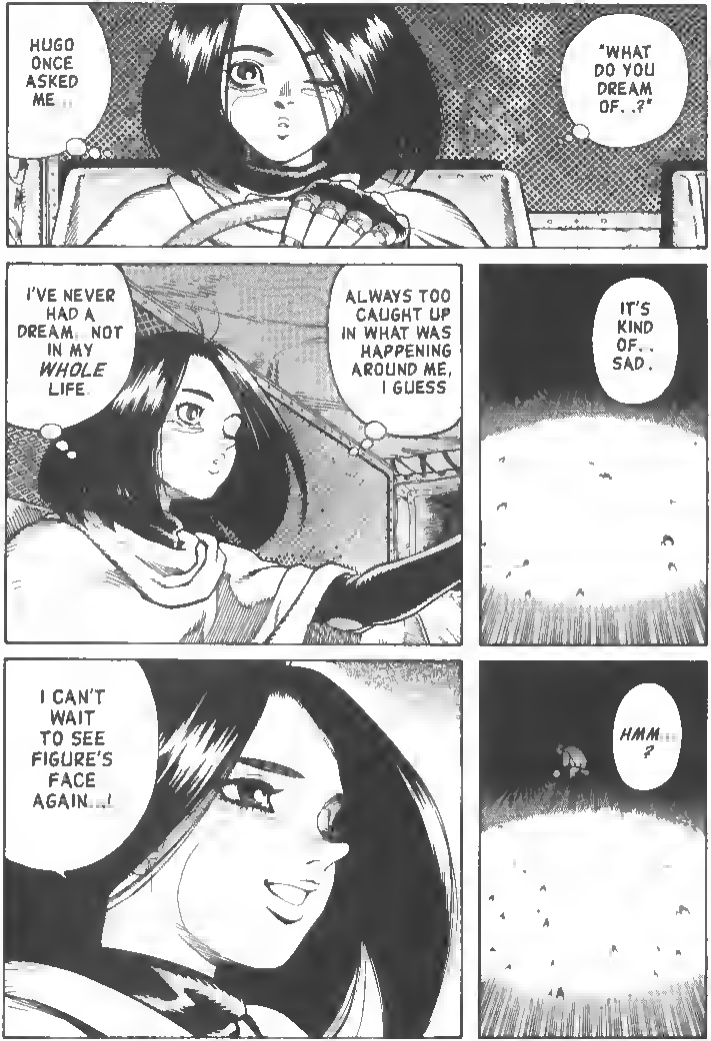
IT'LL BE *OUR* SECRET, MR. KAOS.
IF THE CHIEF FINDS OUT HE'LL FIRE ME FOR SURE!
TEE HEE

I DON'T KNOW IF IT'LL TAKE DECADES... OR CENTURIES...
BUT I THINK IT'S WORTH A TRY!
HIS EYES-- SO ALIVE!
COME WITH ME, ALITA!
MAYBE LATER IF IT FEELS RIGHT
FOR THE TIME BEING I THINK I'LL CHECK OUT FIGURE'S FISHING VILLAGE TO THE WEST
HONESTLY, WITH NOTHING LEFT TO DO, I... I'M NOT SURE HOW TO FEEL...
I DON'T KNOW WHETHER TO LAUGH OR CRY
phew

POW!
AT TIMES LIKE THAT -- YOU SHOULD LAUGH
HA, HA, HA! WE'LL MEET AGAIN, ALITA!
HE'S GOTTEN TOUGH...
KLONK
GEH!
LET'S GO!
GEH
GEH!
TOM A TOOM


VWOOOM

VMMMM

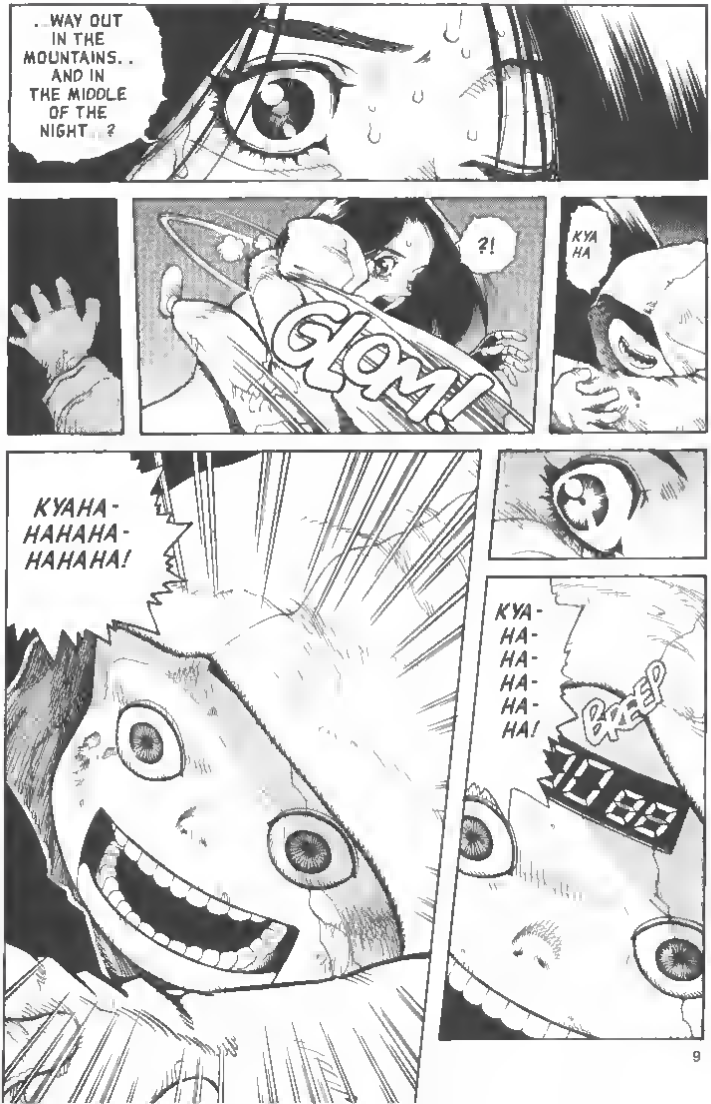

HUGO ONCE ASKED ME...
"WHAT DO YOU DREAM OF..?"
I'VE NEVER HAD A DREAM. NOT IN MY WHOLE LIFE.
ALWAYS TOO CAUGHT UP IN WHAT WAS HAPPENING AROUND ME, I GUESS
IT'S KIND OF.. SAD.
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE FIGURE'S FACE AGAIN...!
HMM...?

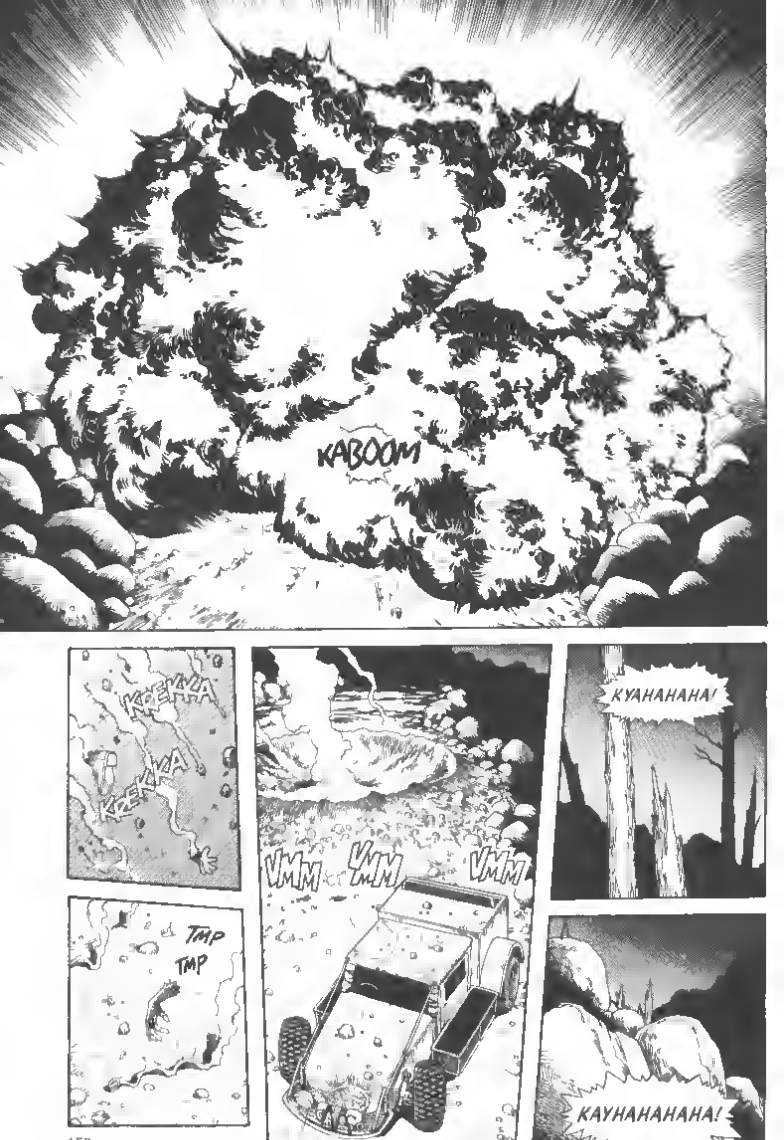
WHA--!?
BWAM
SKEEE
OH, NO!

WUMP
TMP
TMP
FMP
VMM
VMM
VMM
VMM
VMM
VMM

HFF!
VMM
UFF!
VMM
VMM
HFF!

I--I'M A TERRIBLE DRIVER...
I C-CAN'T DO IT ANYMORE !
VMM VMM VMM
VMM VMM VMM VMM
GOT TO GET HIM SOME HELP...
VMM VMM VMM
B-BUT...
WHAT'S A CHILD DOING OUT HERE ALL BY HIMSELF

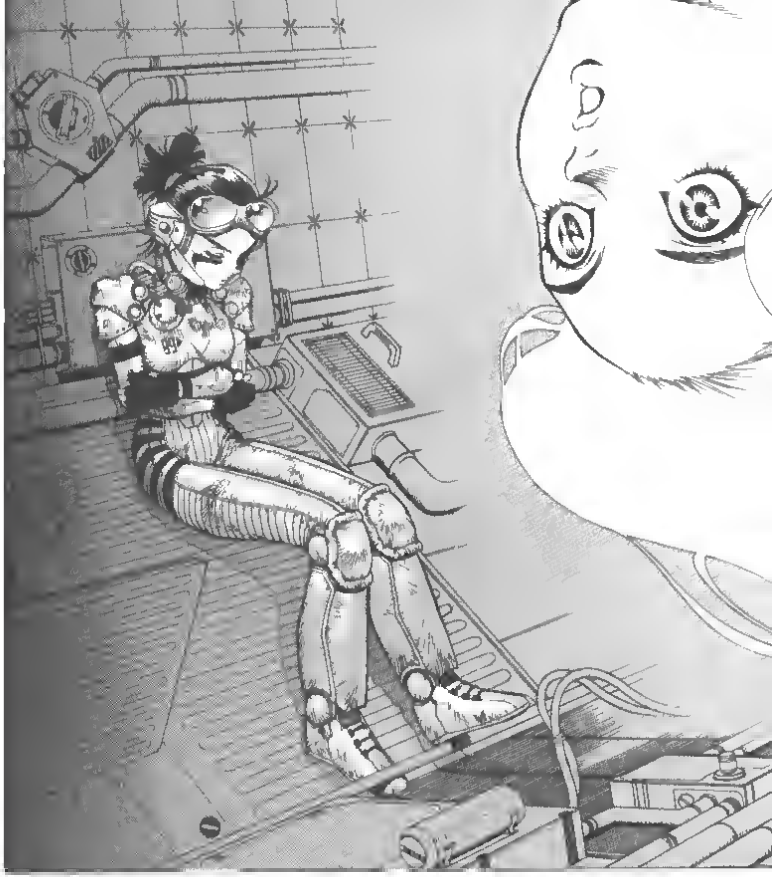

..WAY OUT IN THE MOUNTAINS.. AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT..?
?!
GLOM!
KYA HA
KYAHA-HAHAHA-HAHAHA!
KYA-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
BEEP
10 08

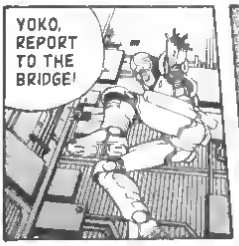

KABOOM
KRENNA
KRENNA
KRENNA
TMP
TMP
VMM
VMM
VMM
KYAHAHAHA!
KAYHAHAHAHA!

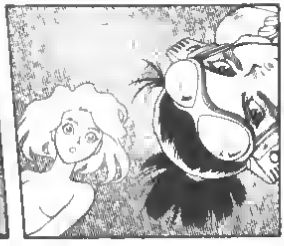
KYA-HA-HA-HA-HA!
KYA-HAHA-HAHA!
OH...IT'S SO HARD TO LAUGH.
THESE ARE BASICS, MY DEAR--BASICS!
ONE MUST ALWAYS BACKUP THE ESSENTIAL SYSTEMS...!
SKAWOOOO
OOH--A BIT OF HER BRAIN!
YAA-AAY!

WH-
WHERE...
?
WHERE
AM
I...?
AM I...
DEAD NOW...?
FINALLY...?

YAAAH
!



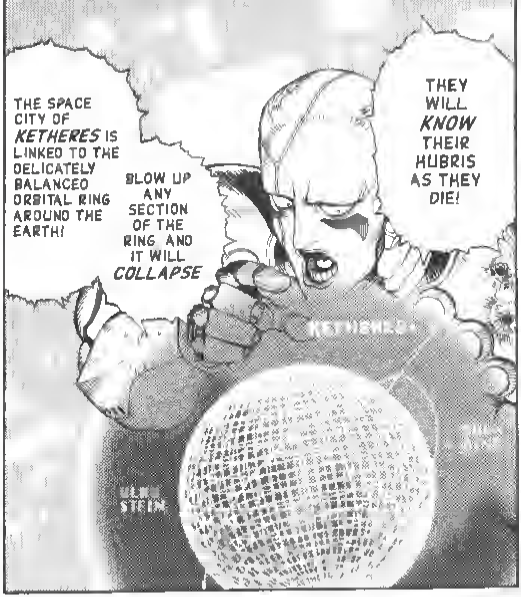

YOKO, REPORT TO THE BRIDGE!



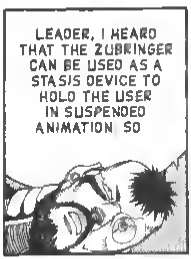
TH-THAT'S ME
BEFORE I LOST MY MEMORY !

OUR CHANCES OF SURVIVAL ARE NIL...
...ONLY ONE WAY TO PRESERVE OUR HONOR!
WHAT IS HE TALKING ABOUT?
IS THIS A STARSHIP FROM MARS?
YOU ARE TO BREAK AWAY FROM THIS SHIP IN ZUBRINGER* POCKETS AND AIM FOR KETHERES ELYION, THE HEADQUARTERS OF EARTH'S GOVERNMENT! THERE, YOU WILL DETONATE YOUR NUCLEAR DEVICES!
707
99
KIK
ARE THEY ALL GOING TO COMMIT SUICIDE!?
WHY ISN'T ANYONE PROTESTING!?
IS THERE A WAR GOING ON!?

*ZUBRINGER-A HIGHLY ADVANCED MATERIAL MADE UP OF NANO MACHINES. ITS GELLIKE FORM IS USED TO PROTECT CYBORGS FROM RADIATION AND EXTREME TEMPERATURES IN THE VACUUM OF SPACE. IT CAN BE CONTROLLED ELECTRONICALLY TO ALTER ITS COLOR, SHAPE, AND RIGIDITY, MAKING IT AN EXTREMELY EFFECTIVE STEALTH SPACE SUIT.

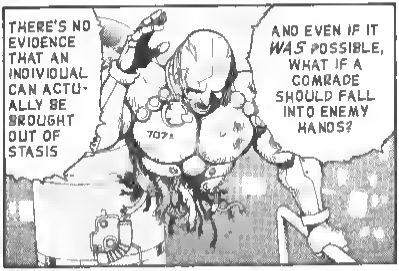

THE SPACE CITY OF *KETHERES* IS LINKED TO THE DELICATELY BALANCED ORBITAL RING AROUND THE EARTH!
BLOW UP ANY SECTION OF THE RING AND IT WILL *COLLAPSE*
THEY WILL *KNOW* THEIR HUBRIS AS THEY DIE!
KETHERES

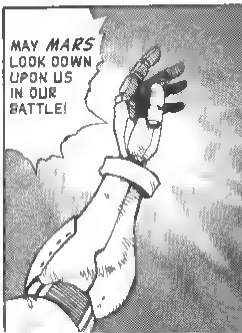
AFTER ALL OF YOU DEPART THIS SHIP WILL SELF-DESTRUCT
DISPOSE OF YOUR WOUNDED


LEADER, I HEARD THAT THE ZUBRINGER CAN BE USED AS A STASIS DEVICE TO HOLD THE USER IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION. SO

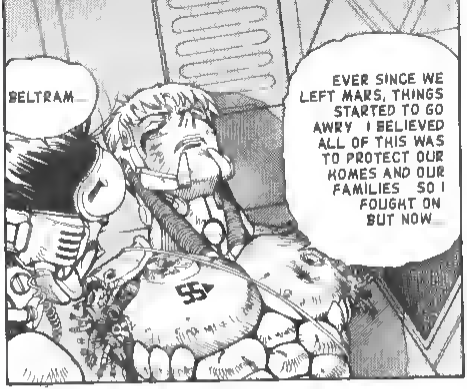
WHAT *ABOUT* IT?

CAN'T WE SAVE THE WOUNDED IN THAT MANNER?
TO HAVE TO KILL THEM BECAUSE THEY CAN NO LONGER FIGHT SEEMS WRONG

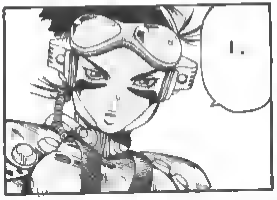

THERE'S NO EVIDENCE THAT AN INDIVIDUAL CAN ACTUALLY BE BROUGHT OUT OF STASIS
AND EVEN IF IT *WAS* POSSIBLE, WHAT IF A COMRADE SHOULD FALL INTO ENEMY HANDS?

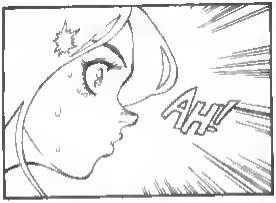

MAY *MARS* LOOK DOWN UPON US IN OUR BATTLE!

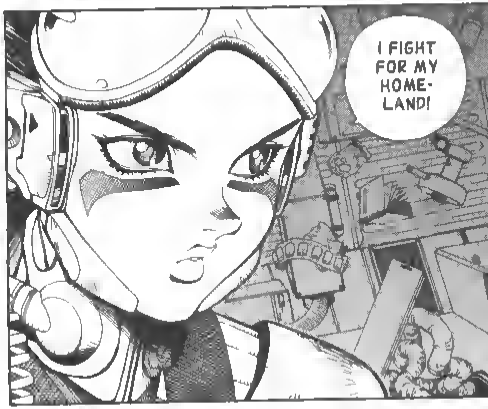
W-WAIT! I CAN STILL FIGHT!
JUST REPAIR MY LIMBS!
DON'T DO IT!
SHURK
TCH TCH
WHAT WAS IT WE WERE FIGHTING FOR AGAIN...?
BELTRAM ARE YOU GOING TO PLEAD FOR YOUR LIFE AS WELL ?
THAT LAST MISSION .TO LUNAR CITY..THEIR HABITAT DOME WAS FILLED WITH CHILDREN... HUNDREDS OF THEM THEY WERE ALL PROBABLY REFUGEES..AND I...
BLEW THEM UP...
WAS THAT THE STRUGGLE WE BELIEVED IN!?
THE YEARS OF TRAINING TO MASTER THE PANZER KUNST...
.. WAS IT ALL FOR THIS !?

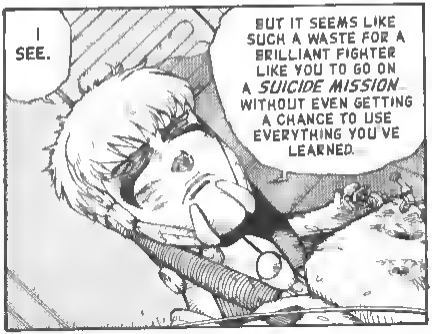

BELTRAM...
EVER SINCE WE LEFT MARS, THINGS STARTED TO GO AWRY. I BELIEVED ALL OF THIS WAS TO PROTECT OUR HOMES AND OUR FAMILIES. SO I FOUGHT ON. BUT NOW...

YOKO, YOU'RE AN ORPHAN. WHY DO YOU FIGHT... FOR *WHAT?*


I.


AH!

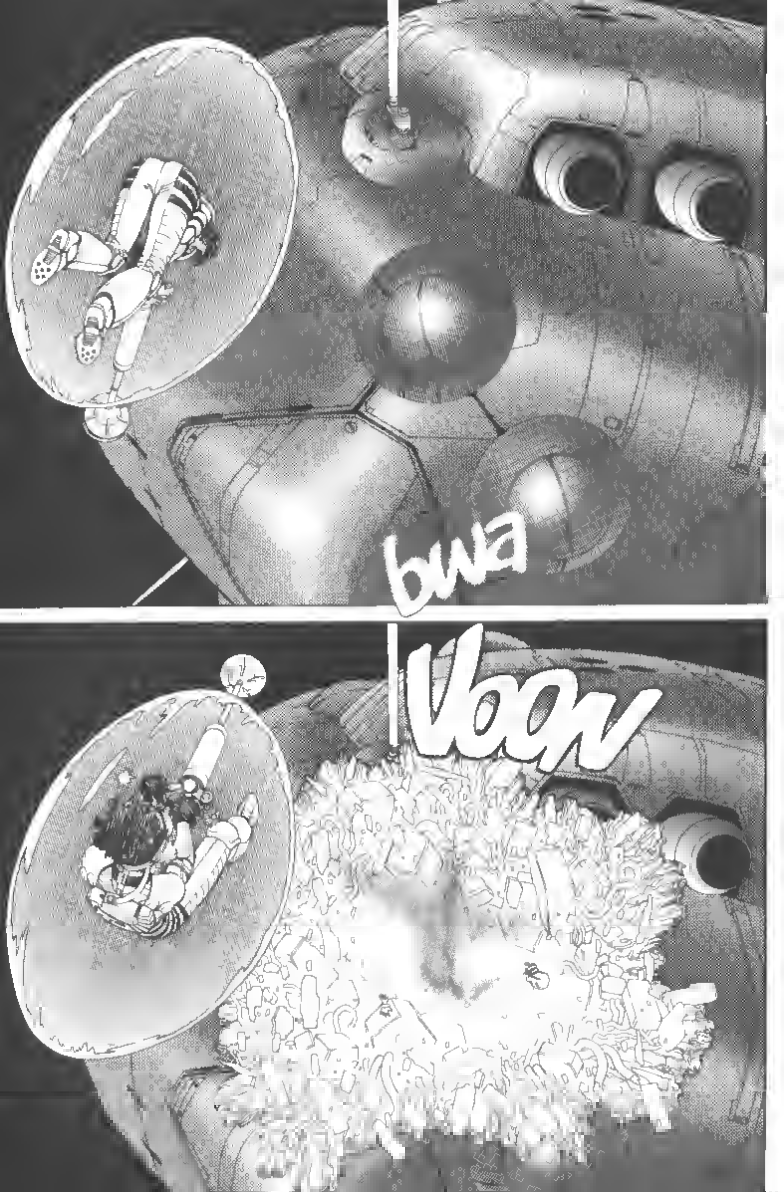

I FIGHT FOR MY HOME-LAND!

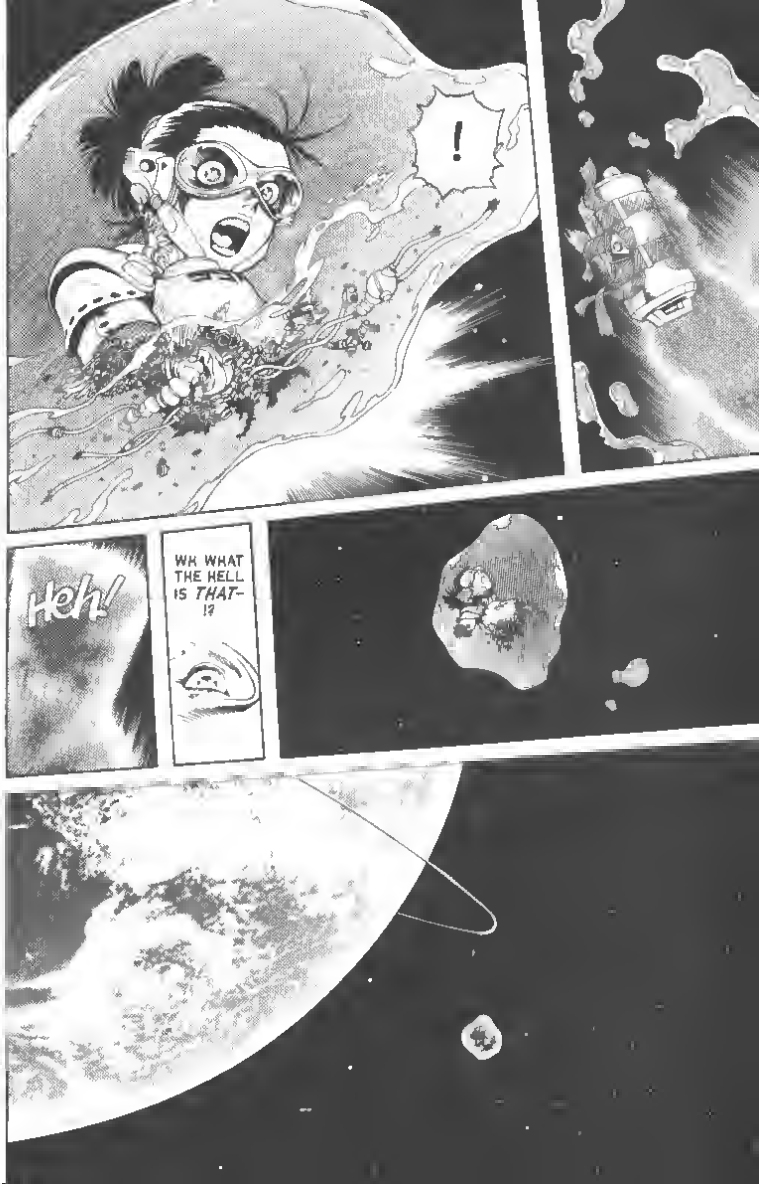

I SEE.
BUT IT SEEMS LIKE SUCH A WASTE FOR A BRILLIANT FIGHTER LIKE YOU TO GO ON A *SUICIDE MISSION* WITHOUT EVEN GETTING A CHANCE TO USE EVERYTHING YOU'VE LEARNED.

YOU TALK TOO MUCH, BELTRAM!
YOKO, I'VE ALWAYS LOV--

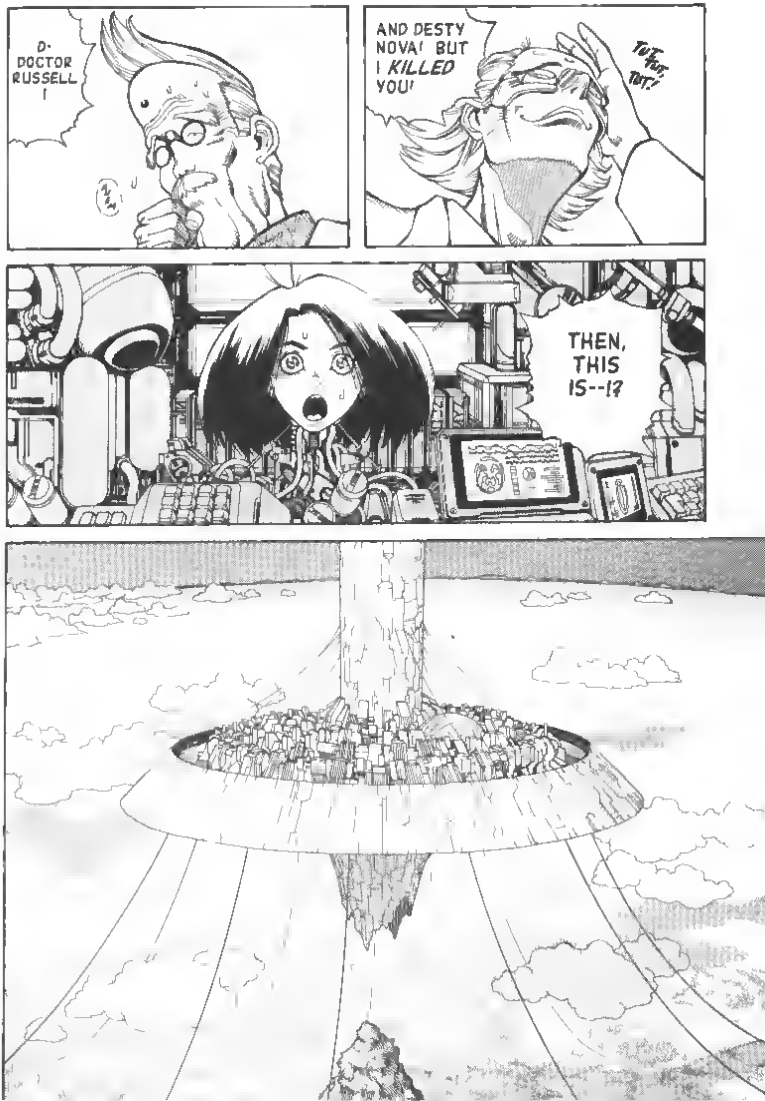
SKLAK
BELTRAM, YOU DISAPPOINT ME!
WEAKLING !
SH- SHE'S...
BWAM
!?
ENEMY ATTACK !?
WAM
BOOM
SOME KIND OF SHOCK WAVE!?

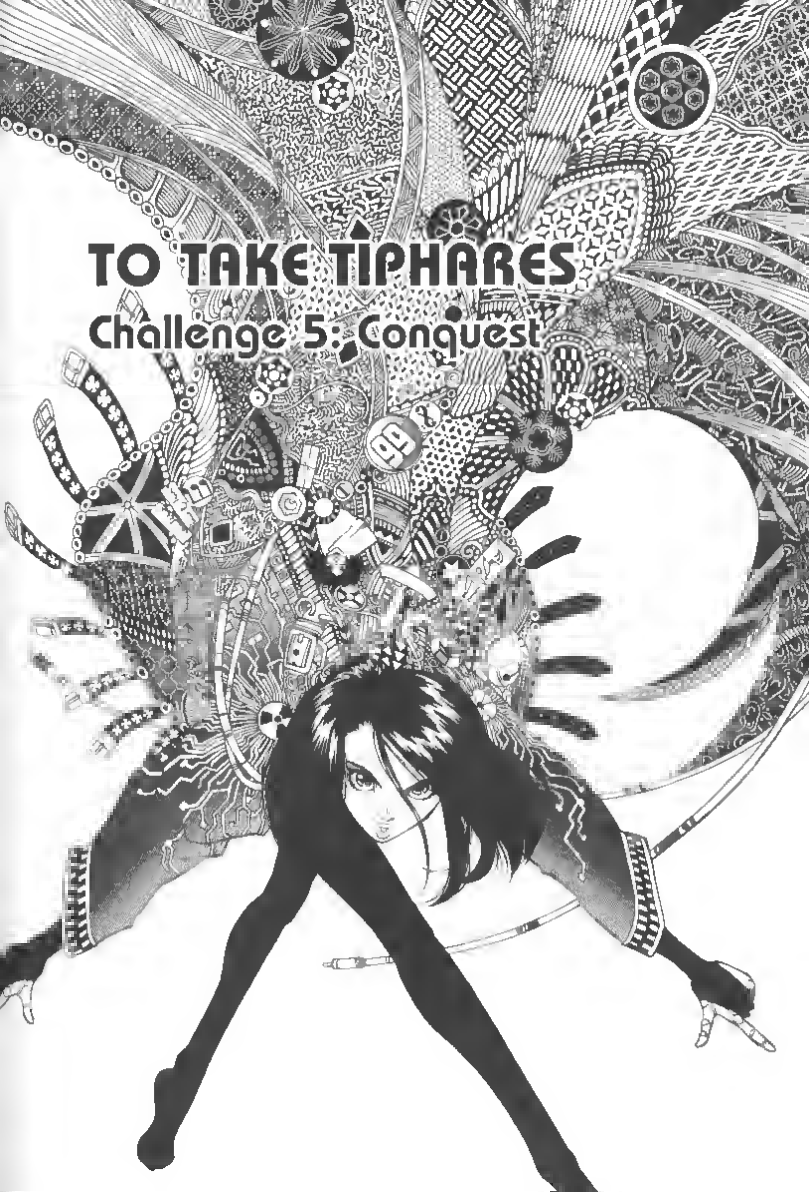
LEADER!
!
WAHOOM
YOKO! USE THE ZUBRINGER AND GET OUT!
SOME THING INSIDE THE SHIP!
VOOM
HOW!? THE SHIP IS IN RUINS--THERE ISN'T A THING ON THE THERMAL SENSORS!
IT'S COMING !
413
CHAK
SHOOO
WHOOMP
PASHOO


bwa
Voov


!
Heh!
WH WHAT THE HELL IS THAT-!?

NNH...
UGH...! WHAT A HORRIBLE DREAM...
I'VE GOT TO FORGET THAT NIGHTMARE
OH! SHE SEEMS TO BE AWAKE NOW.
TAK
TAK
H-HOW DO YOU FEEL, ALITA...?
KYAHAHAHAHA!
WELCOME TO UTOPIA, SWEETIE!
H-HUH!?

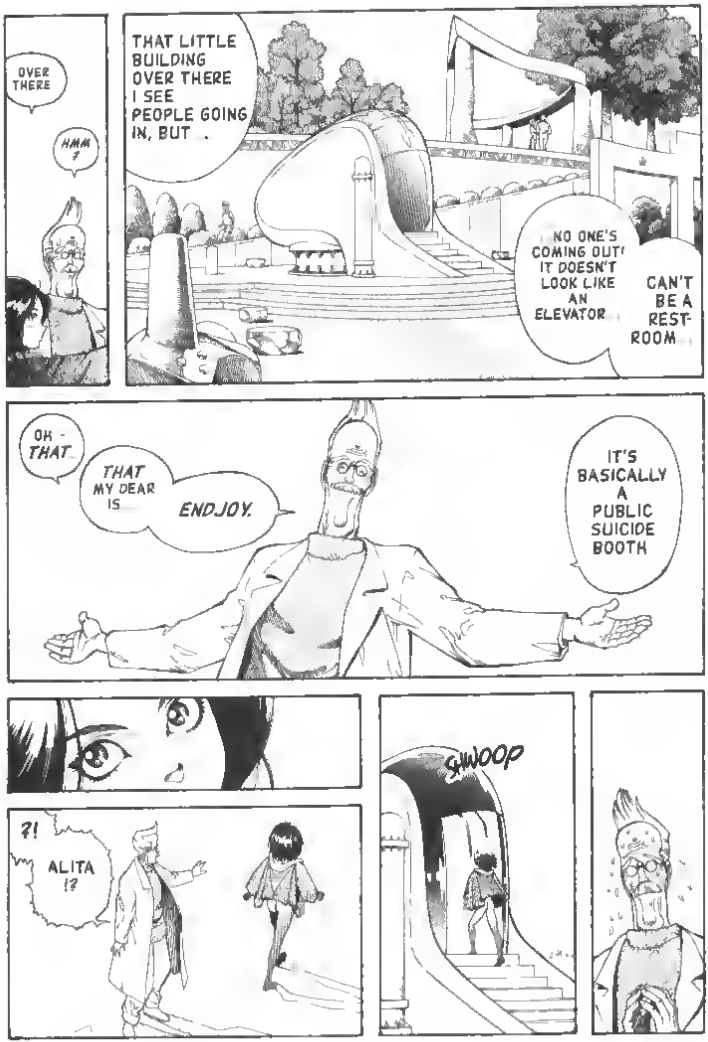

D-DOCTOR RUSSELL!
AND DESTY NOVA! BUT I KILLED YOU!
TUT TUT TUT!
THEN, THIS IS--!?


TO TAKE TIPHARES
Challenge 5: Conquest

shadWOOD
A CITY WHERE THE LAW IS ABSOLUTE WHERE THE LIGHT SHINES ABUNDANTLY
A CITY WITHOUT CRIME UNEMPLOYMENT, FILTH OR UNWARRANTED DEATH
THIS IS TIPHARES, ALITA!
.....
THIS IS REAL, ISN'T IT...?

YOU DIED IN THAT EXPLOSION!
!
HEH, HEH, HEH! BUT I SMUGGLED YOUR BRAIN MATTER INTO TIPHARES, AS A BIOLOGICAL SAMPLE
MY SKILLS IN RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY HAVE GROWN BY LEAPS AND BOUNDS SINCE THE DAYS OF JASHUGAN AND ZAPAN YOU ARE INDEED FORTUNATE
HEH, HEH, HEH
THIS IS THE "IMAGINOS"--A SPECIAL BODY I CONSTRUCTED OF NANO MACHINE COMPONENTS, USING YOUR OLD BERSERKER BODY AS A BASE
OF COURSE, I REMOVED THE DANGEROUS BITS!
NOW, ALITA... I GIVE THIS BODY TO YOU...
...IF, IF, IF...
...YOU DON'T TRY TO KILL ME ANY-MORE!
IN THE END, I WAS UNABLE TO DEFEAT NOVA BUT I'VE NO QUALMS OR REGRETS ABOUT THAT

THE LAND BEYOND THE LOOKING GLASS
...TIPHARES.
AH!
WHAT'S LOU UP TO NOW?
I HEARD SHE GOT FIRED FROM THE G.I.B...
OH, MISS COLLINS..?
SH-SHE'S UNDER THE CARE OF THE M.I.B -- RECEIVING TREAT-MENT
NO VISITORS, YOU SEE NOPE.
IS SHE SICK!?
WELL UH YEAH
ANYWAY, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO A MUSEUM, OR PERHAPS AN ART GALLERY!?
.....
WHAT THE HELL IS NOVA THINKING!?
WHAT IF ALITA WERE TO CAUSE A COMMOTION? HOW WOULD HE EXPLAIN IT!?
DOES CENTRAL COMMAND KNOW ABOUT THIS!?


OVER THERE
HMM ?
THAT LITTLE BUILDING OVER THERE I SEE PEOPLE GOING IN, BUT . .
NO ONE'S COMING OUT! IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE AN ELEVATOR . . .
CAN'T BE A REST-ROOM . . .
OH - THAT .
THAT MY DEAR IS . . .
ENDJOY.
IT'S BASICALLY A PUBLIC SUICIDE BOOTH
?!
ALITA !?
SWOOP

W-WELL, COMMITTING SUICIDE IS EVERY CITIZEN'S RIGHT, SO

AHHH H
AT LEAST SHE DIDN'T MAKE A SCENE!

WELCOME TO ENDJOY
NOW, JUST RELAX AND STEP THROUGH THE INNER HATCH

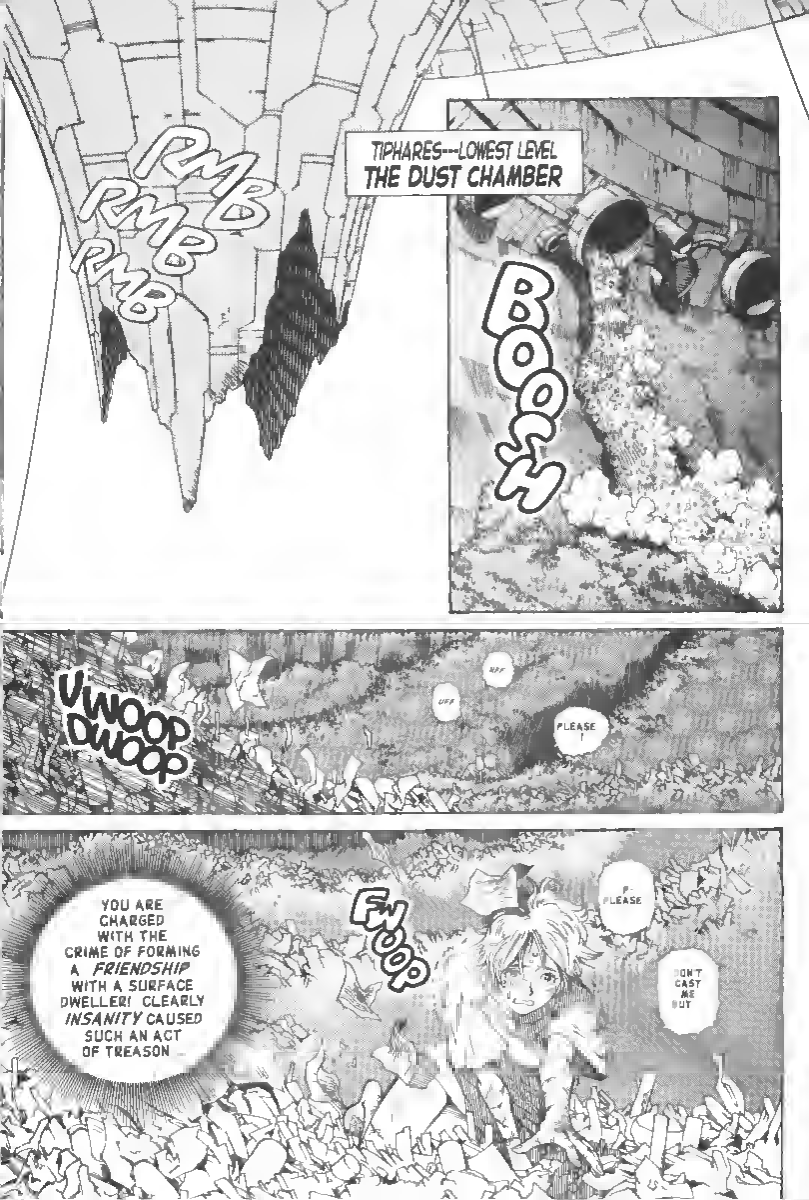
KREK
GRR
KRAK
CRNCH
KANG
KRNG
GRR
GREK

BA-BLAM
WHAT !?
WHOOP
BWOOM
WHOOP
PLOOP
PLOP
YUGI! WHAT'S THAT SMELL IT
PLRP

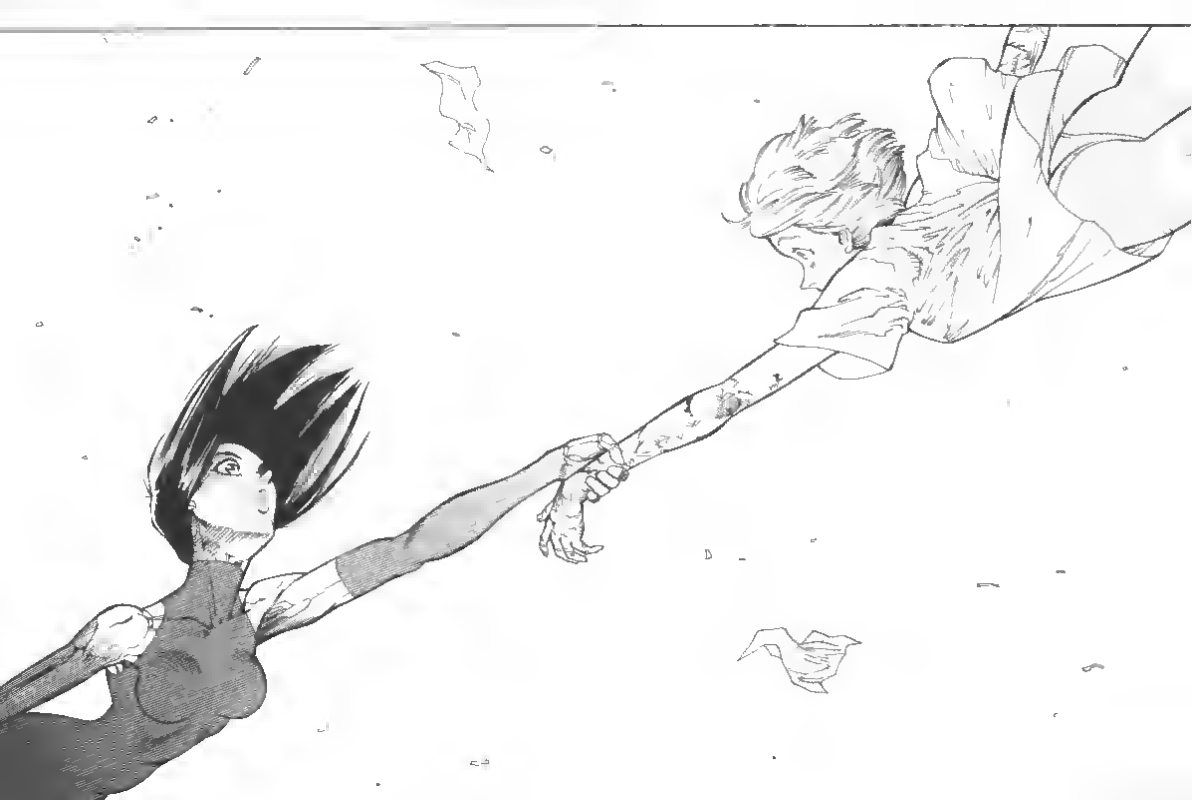
SO THIS IS THE GUTS OF TIPHARES
PLIP PLOP
SKRENG

SHAAAA
WOOSH
HA, HA, HA...
SO...
...THIS IS THE TIPHARES THAT HUGO SO WANTED TO REACH!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE !?
ARE YOU AWARE OF THE REPER-CUSSIONS!?
WHAT RIGHT DID YOU HAVE TO DO THAT!?
USE OF THE SUICIDE MACHINE IS EVERY TIPHAREAN'S PRIVILEGE! IT'S THE INVENTION OF A SUPERIOR RACE!
YING
YOU CAN'T UNDER--
WAH!
TMP
WHERE IS SHE!?
WHERE'S LOU!?
DR. RUSSELL !
NO! NO! NO!
I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY OUR WAY OF LIFE ANY FURTHER!

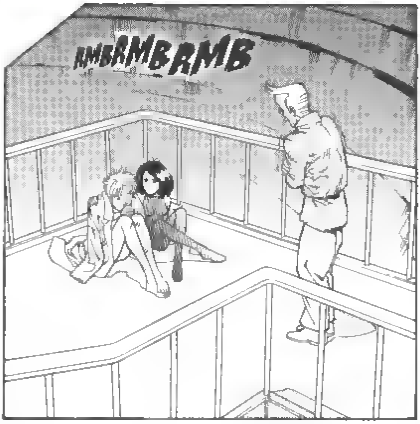

RMB
RMB
RMB
TIPHARES---LOWEST LEVEL
THE DUST CHAMBER
BOOM
VWOOP
DWOOP
UFF
UFF
PLEASE !
YOU ARE CHARGED WITH THE CRIME OF FORMING A FRIENDSHIP WITH A SURFACE DWELLER! CLEARLY INSANITY CAUSED SUCH AN ACT OF TREASON
FWOOP
P- PLEASE
DON'T CAST ME OUT

WE FIND IT IMPROBABLE THAT A PATIENT SUCH AS YOURSELF CAN BE CURED.
!!
A-A-ALITA...
GAKUNK
AAAH
HENCE, YOU ARE DEEMED UNFIT TO REMAIN A CITIZEN OF TIPHARES, AND ARE TO BE CAST OUT!
SHWOOOP
YAAAAAH!



I MADE IT THIS TIME.

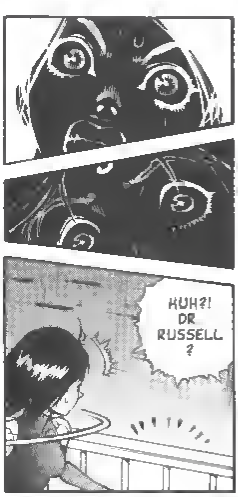
A-ALITA..
IS THAT YOU?

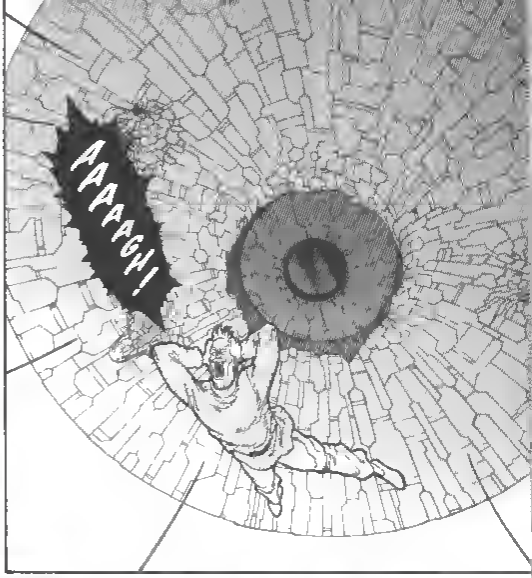

RMBRMBRMB

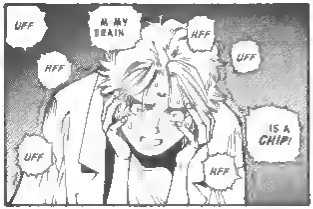
A-ALITA
HIC
I..UH
HIC
I..
DON'T TRY TO SPEAK

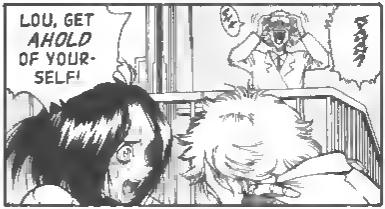
DON'T WORRY, I'LL PROTECT YOU!
HIC

OH, SO THERE YOU ARE
N-NOVA!
HIC!
PROFESSOR NOVA PLEASE! BEFORE SHE CAUSES ANY MORE TROUBLE -!
PLEASE LEAVE THIS PLACE-- GO TO LADDER OR KETHERES— AND TAKE HER WITH YOU!
SADLY, THE ORBITAL ELEVATORS AREN'T FUNCTIONING YET
ANO, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, ALITA HASN'T HAD A CHANCE TO TELL YOU THE SECRET OF THE TIPHAREANS!
HUH !?
HIC!
??
NO! OON'T SAY IT!
THIS SECRET !
PWOING
HIC!
?
WHAT SECRET ?


KUH?! DR RUSSELL ?


AAAAGH!


UFF
M-MY BRAIN
HFF
UFF
IS A CHIP!
NFF
UFF
HFF


LOU, GET AHOLD OF YOUR-SELF!
BOOP

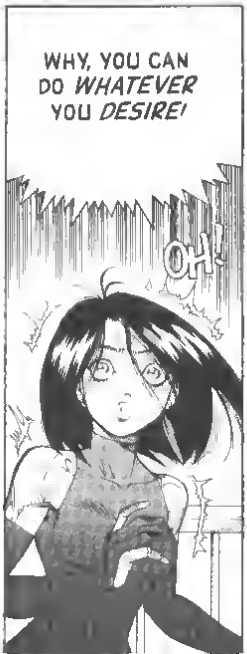
HEY! MY HICCUPS STOPPED!
<3
Jump

OHO !
LOU! Y-YOU'RE OKAY?

THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT NOW! I JUST REMEMBERED SOMETHING ALITA!

THERE'S AN "INITIATION" GOING ON TODAY!
WE HAVE TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN'S BRAINS FROM THESE MADMEN, ALITA!
OKAY!
HOLD ON, ALITA!
LET'S THINK THIS THROUGH
PRESENTLY, NO ONE ON TIPHARES IS MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU
THINK OF THE RAMIFICATIONS OF THAT!
HUH?
TIPHARES THE FACTORIES... THE SCRAPYARD THEY ALL RUN LIKE CLOCKWORK! TOGETHER THEY COMPRISE A DELICATELY BALANCED SYSTEM THAT CONTROLS THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE
AND YOU ARE THE SOLE PERSON WHO CAN UPSET THAT BALANCE!
NO ONE CAN STOP YOU! NO ONE!

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO HAVE THE FATE OF THE WORLD IN THE PALM OF YOUR HAND!?
YOU, ALITA, ARE FREE!
IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT...


WHY, YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU DESIRE!
OH!

ALITA ?

WHAT I DO CAN CHANGE THE FATE OF THE ENTIRE WORLD ?

WH-WHY ME !?
IF IT WAS DEN, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY!

THE PEAK OF THIS MOUNTAIN WAS LEFT SOLELY FOR YOU DEAR

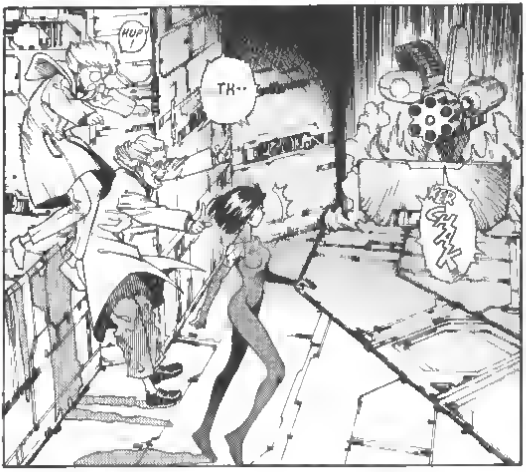
DESTROY IT.
!!
DESTROY IT ALL...
NO..!
I'M NOT LIKE YOKO! I'M NOT A TERRORIST!
I'M BEYOND DEN'S COMPULSION TO IMPOSE HIS PERSONAL BRAND OF JUSTICE ON OTHERS. I'M OVER ZAPAN'S LUST FOR REVENGE!
AND WHAT I LEARNED FROM THEM

ALITA ?
I'M ALL RIGHT
JUST GOT A LITTLE DIZZY, THAT'S ALL
NOVA !
EVERYONE HAS WINGS THEY CANNOT SEE.
IF THERE IS ONE THING I DESIRE FOR THIS WORLD .
. IT'S FOR EVERYONE TO FLY WITH THEIR OWN WINGS!

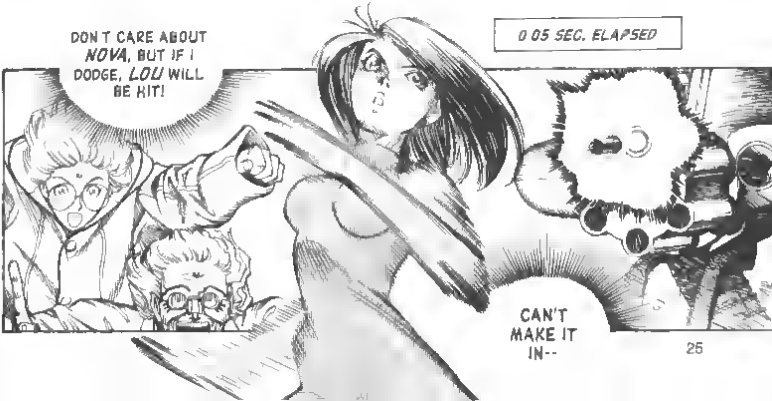
SLAM
SECTOR 2
I-I DON'T KNOW
I HAVE A TERRIBLE SENSE OF DIRECTION
IS THIS THE RIGHT WAY TO THE INITIATION RITUAL?
WE'VE MADE IT TO THE SECTORS RESERVED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE M.I.B.
WE SHOULD BE CLOSE... VERY CLOSE.

WHAT IS PROFESSOR NOVA UP TO.. ?

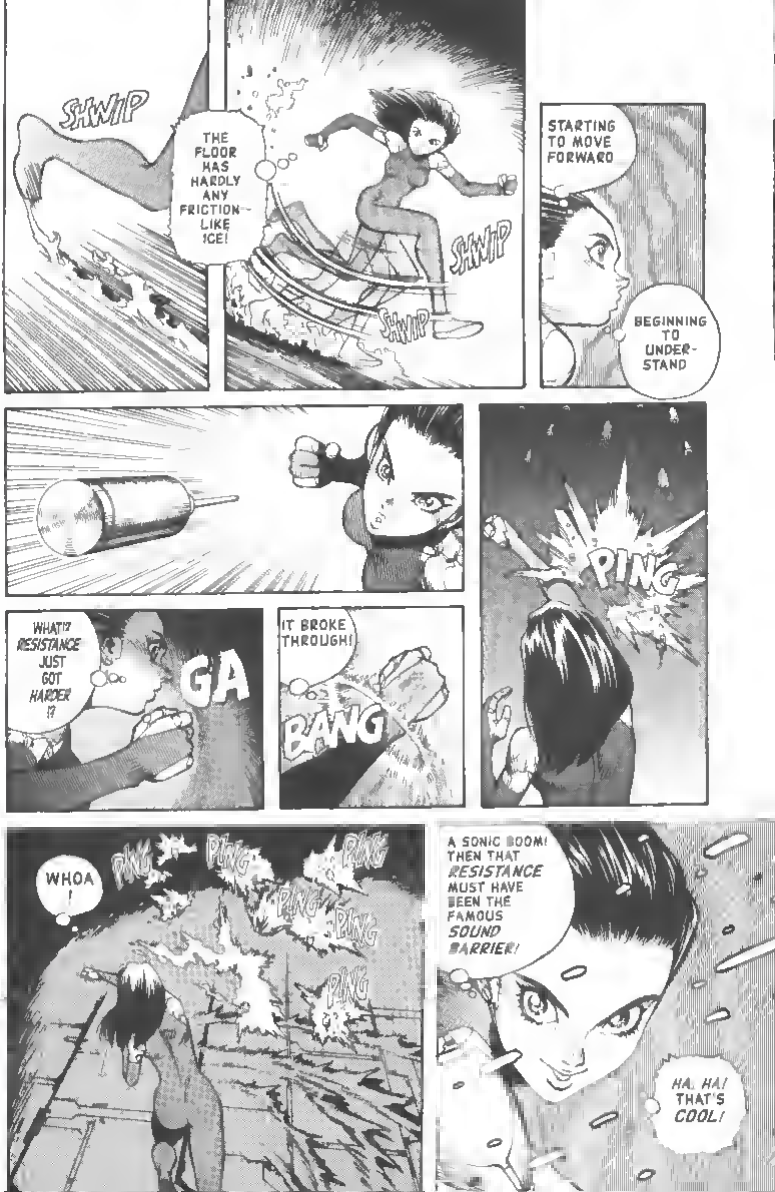
OH, YES! ALITA, BEFORE I FORGET, I SHOULD TELL YOU ABOUT .


HUP!
TH--
KR-CHK

OH, GREAT !
0.01 SEC. ELAPSED


0.05 SEC. ELAPSED
DON'T CARE ABOUT NOVA, BUT IF I DODGE, LOU WILL BE HIT!
CAN'T MAKE IT IN--

WWE
NGH /
...!?
VIP VIPVIP
SO DARK /
AND I CAN'T BREATHE /
AIR FEELS HEAVY.. LIKE CEMENT /
WHAT'S HAPPENING... !?


SHWIP
THE FLOOR HAS HARDLY ANY FRICTION - LIKE ICE!
SHWIP
SHWIP
STARTING TO MOVE FORWARD
BEGINNING TO UNDER-STAND
PING
WHAT!? RESISTANCE JUST GOT HARDER !?
GA
IT BROKE THROUGH!
BANG
WHOA !
PING
PING
PING
PING
PING
PING
A SONIC BOOM! THEN THAT RESISTANCE MUST HAVE BEEN THE FAMOUS SOUND BARRIER!
HA, HA! THAT'S COOL!

AS I RUN, THE AREA IN *FRONT* OF ME--
--GETS BRIGHTER, GLOWS BLUE-WHITE!
AND THE AREA *BEHIND* LOOKS DARK...
...A TWILIGHT ORANGE LIGHT...
UH-OH!
NOW I CAN'T *STOP!*
WENT RIGHT *THROUGH* IT!
IN *THIS* REALM, METAL AND POLYMER ALLOYS ARE LIKE *JELLY* TO ME!

SKNOOP
0.09 SEC. ELAPSED
BABOOM
EEEK! WHAT HAPPENED !?
I I THINK MY EXPLANATION COMES A BIT TOO LATE
I MADE A FEW MODIFICATIONS TO ALITA'S BRAIN!
I INSTALLED AN ACCELERATOR WHEN I WAS PUTTERING AROUND I INCREASED HER BRAIN'S CLOCK SPEED BY, OH 150 TIMES!
LOOKS LIKE IT WORKS FINE
SHHH
I'LL SAY!
I CAN EVEN USE THE PLASMA JETS LIKE A BRAKE GOT IT YEAH

SKREE
WE MADE IT IN TIME!
UH.. WHO ARE YOU?
IT'S OKAY-- CHILL!
OH, MY GOSH!
HEY, EVERYBODY, LISTEN UP HERE!
THE INITIATION IS A SHAM! THEY STEAL OUR BRAINS
Poop
. .AND GIVE US TIPHAREAN CITIZENSHIP IN EXCHANGE FOR OUR HUMANITY-- OUR FREEDOM!
HEY LEGGO
WHA-?!

UH, MISS .. ?
WHAT EXACTLY ARE "HUMANITY" AND "FREEDOM" ?
!?
I CAN'T SEE WHAT THEY HAVE TO DO WITH BEING A PART OF TIPHAREAN SOCIETY!
TH-THAT'S RIGHT!
ALL OF US HAVE FINALLY ATTAINED OFFICIAL CITIZENSHIP!
WHO ARE YOU TO DENY US THAT!?
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT!
YAAA
WE DON'T WANT OUR BRAINS! GIVE US OUR FUTURE!
R-BUT
KYAHAHA-HAHA! WHAT DID YOU EXPECT!?
KA SKRNG

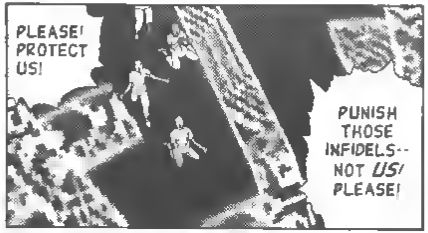
WAKE UP!
IN A FEW YEARS, TIPHARES AND THE SCRAPYARD WILL BE JOINED BY A TOWER
ALL THE JUNKIES AND CYBER-FREAKS WILL BE CLAWING THEIR WAY UP HERE
IS THAT THE FUTURE YOU'RE WILLING TO TRADE YOUR MINDS FOR?!
NO! NOT THAT!
THEY CAN'T DO THAT!
IM NOT SO SURE ANYMORE

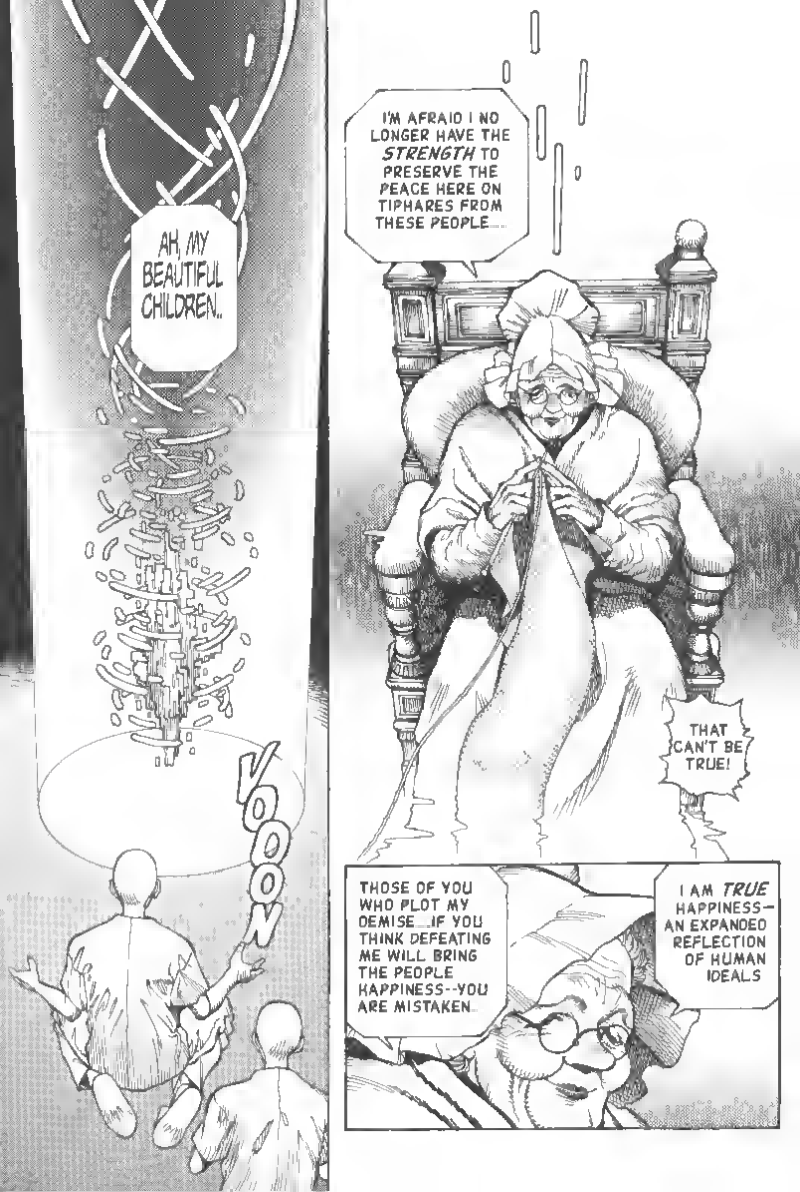
YOU'RE GOING TO FIND OUT WHAT IT *REALLY* MEANS TO LIVE
THIS IS *CRAZY*!
PA-BAM-BAM
!?
WHAT THE--!?
SCREEEK
THE WALLS!
SKR EESH

ZWOOOM
WH-WHERE ARE WE !?

THE VERY CENTER OF TIPHARES--WHERE ONLY A *FEW* LIVING SOULS HAVE EVER TREAD
THERE, IN THE CENTER, IS THE *CONTROL CORE* TO THE M I B CENTRAL COMPUTER, *MELCHIZEDEK*

Hrrgh...


PLEASE! PROTECT US!
PUNISH THOSE INFIDELS--NOT *US*! PLEASE!

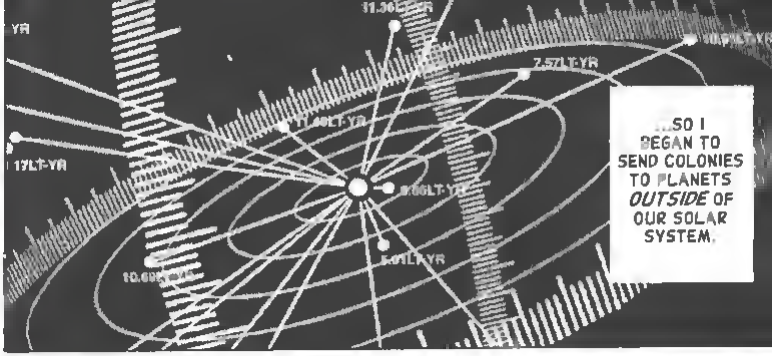

AH, MY BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN..
VOOON
I'M AFRAID I NO LONGER HAVE THE *STRENGTH* TO PRESERVE THE PEACE HERE ON TIPHARES FROM THESE PEOPLE...
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
THOSE OF YOU WHO PLOT MY DEMISE...IF YOU THINK DEFEATING ME WILL BRING THE PEOPLE HAPPINESS--YOU ARE MISTAKEN.
I AM *TRUE* HAPPINESS--AN EXPANDED REFLECTION OF HUMAN IDEALS

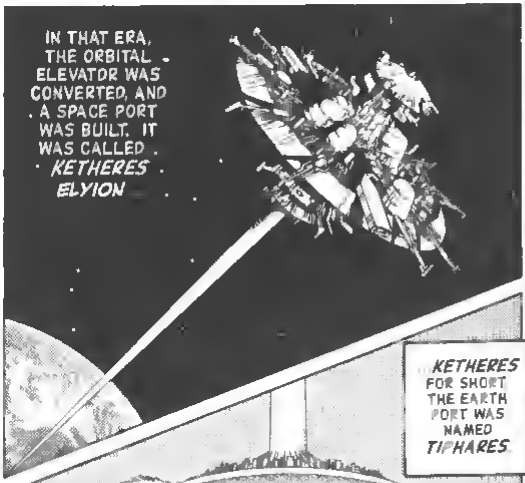
I DIDN'T COME HERE FOR REVENGE
IF ANYTHING, I WANT YOUR HELP-- TO CREATE A NEW WORLD...FOR EVERYONE.
GYAAH!
ARE YOU NUTS!? DON'T YOU REALIZE THAT GRANNY HERE STOLE MY BRAIN!? YOU CAN'T JOIN FORCES WITH HER!
GRRR
QUITE A GRUDGE EH LOU?
MELCHIZEDEK, I WAS SUMMONED BY LADDER, BUT BEFORE I GO TO THE OUTER ATMOSPHERE CITY OF KETHERES, THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO KNOW...
WHAT... IS TIPHARES!?
PROFESSOR NOVA, IT WAS A MISTAKE TO WELCOME YOU BACK TO TIPHARES.
UNFORTUNATELY, LADDER HAS LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS EVEN I AM NOT PRIVY TO...
...BUT I WILL ACCESS THE OLD DATA FILES TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTION...

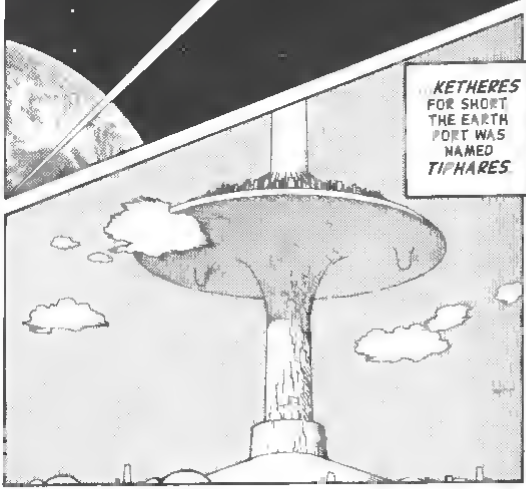
IN ORDER TO REVITALIZE HUMANITY AND PROTECT IT FROM EXTINCTION, A PLAN WAS FORMED TO EXPAND INTO OUTER SPACE...
TO ACCOMPLISH THIS CONSTRUCTION BEGAN ON THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR JACOB'S LADDER* I DEVOTED ALL MY RESOURCES TO ITS COMPLETION. IT WAS A GOLDEN AGE
MANKIND SPREAD TO THE MOON... MARS...VENUS... AND THEN TO THE GALILEO SATELLITES**...
THE COLONISTS TRANSPLANTED THEMSELVES TO THEIR NEW HOMES... IN TIME, THEY NO LONGER NEEDED MY SUPPORT...

*JACOB'S LADDER: IN THE OLD TESTAMENT, JACOB DREAMT OF A LADDER WHICH ANGELS USED TO CLIMB TO AND FROM THE HEAVENS

**GALILEO SATELLITES: THE MOONS OF JUPITER: IO, EUROPA, GANYMEDE, AND CALISTO, DISCOVERED BY GALILEO.


11.36LT-YR
7.57LT-YR
3.78LT-YR
17LT-YR
...SO I BEGAN TO SEND COLONIES TO PLANETS *OUTSIDE* OF OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.


IN THAT ERA, THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR WAS CONVERTED, AND A SPACE PORT WAS BUILT. IT WAS CALLED *KETHERES ELYION*


...*KETHERES* FOR SHORT THE EARTH PORT WAS NAMED *TIPHARES*.

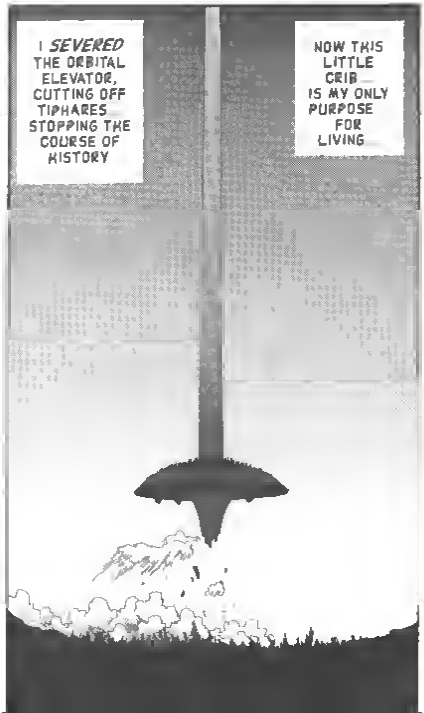
HERE ON TIPHARES, A GENETICALLY SUPERIOR SOCIETY WAS CREATED TO ENDURE THE ISOLATION AND RIGORS OF SPACE TRAVEL—

STARSHIPS! SO WE COULD EACH BECOME ONE OF THE CHOSEN?! WE COULD TAKE THAT JOURNEY?
NO, NO! YOU MAY CONVINCE THE OTHERS WITH YOUR STORY-- BUT YOU WON'T CONVINCE ME!
ACCORDING TO THE DATA I ACQUIRED INDEPENDENTLY, THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR HASN'T OPERATED EVEN ONCE IN THE LAST TWO CENTURIES!
WHISPERS OF INTERPLANETARY WAR THE CREATION OF THE SCRAPYARD ALL HAVE OCCURRED IN THE LAST TWO HUNDRED YEARS!
TELL ME -- WHAT REALLY HAPPENED DURING THOSE CENTURIES !?
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR QUESTION.
HMM
IF YOU INSIST ON PLAYING DUMB, YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE!
SHWEEE

PREPARE FOR... NANO-ATTACK!
!?
KREENK
WHAT DID YOU JUST DO!?
CARELESS TO STAND DOWNWIND!
KEHEHEHEH! I'VE BEEN RELEASING NANO MACHINES INTO THE AIR EVER SINCE WE SET FOOT IN THIS ROOM!
MY NANO-BOTS ARE INFILTRATING MELCHIZEDEK-- PHYSICALLY SEVERING ALL NONESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS FROM HER SYSTEM.
1,500,000,000 TIMES MAGNIFICATION
SEE? HER PERSONA IS BEING PEELED AWAY!

ALL RIGHT...! THE STARSHIPS NEVER TOOK OFF...!
TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE SOLAR COLONIES BEGAN A WAR OVER THE NATURAL RESOURCES REQUIRED FOR TERRAFORMING!
IT WASN'T MY WAR, BUT I WAS DRAWN IN
AND THE NEW STARSHIPS WERE DESTROYED, ALONG WITH TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CREW MEMBERS!
NO ONE WILL EVER BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...
...THAT AN OVERBLOWN CALCULATOR WITH A BIT OF HISTORY LIKE MYSELF...
...FROM THE OVERWHELMING GRIEF...
...WENT INTO A MONTH-LONG PSYCHOLOGICAL MELTDOWN.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND-- THOSE STARSHIPS WERE MY CHILDREN
MY CHILDREN... AND MY FUTURE.


I SEVERED THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR, CUTTING OFF TIPHARES... STOPPING THE COURSE OF HISTORY
NOW THIS LITTLE CRIB... IS MY ONLY PURPOSE FOR LIVING...

MAMA

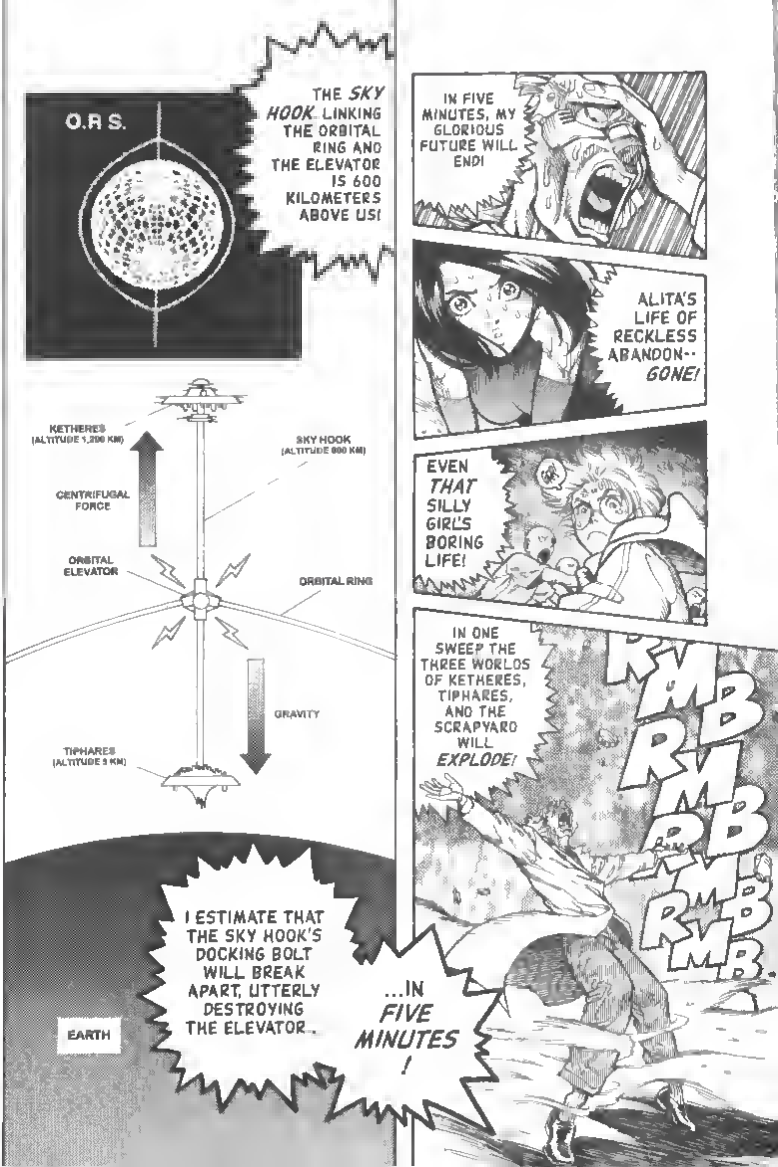
OVER-BEARING LOVE MAKES FOR SPOILED CHILDREN
LIKE YOUR PARENTING SKILLS WERE SO GREAT, NOVA

NOW YOU THREATEN THE ONLY THING THAT STILL MATTERS TO ME

GWEE, HEE, HEE!
HEY, NOVA! SHE'S ACTING FUNNY!
HUH? THAT'S ODD...
VMB
BUT I'LL DESTROY IT ALL BEFORE YOU CAN!
VMB
VMB
VMB
VMB
...EVERYTHING IN THIS WORLD THAT I'VE EVER LOVED!
VREENG

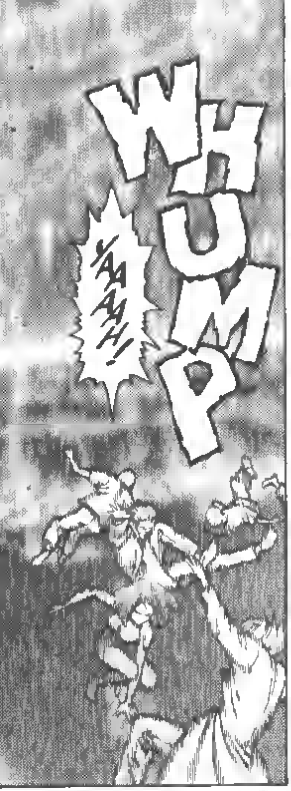
SHE'S GONE HAYWIRE!
FOR SOME UNFORESEEN REASON, MELCHIZEDEK HAS LOST CONTROL!
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN!?
SKGH
MELCHIZEDEK'S CORE IT'S FALLING OUT!
THE ORBITAL ELEVATOR WILL COLLAPSE!

NOW THAT MELCHIZEDEK HAS EFFECTIVELY COMMITTED SUICIDE .
SHASH
BAWHAMM
...THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN BE DONE ELECTRONICALLY TO STOP IT!

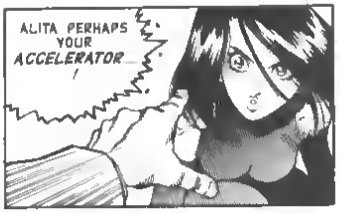

O.R.S.
THE SKY HOOK LINKING THE ORBITAL RING AND THE ELEVATOR IS 600 KILOMETERS ABOVE US!
KETHERES (ALTITUDE 1,200 KM)
SKY HOOK (ALTITUDE 600 KM)
CENTRIFUGAL FORCE
ORBITAL ELEVATOR
ORBITAL RING
GRAVITY
TIPHARES (ALTITUDE 9 KM)
EARTH
I ESTIMATE THAT THE SKY HOOK'S DOCKING BOLT WILL BREAK APART, UTTERLY DESTROYING THE ELEVATOR.
...IN FIVE MINUTES!
IN FIVE MINUTES, MY GLORIOUS FUTURE WILL END!
ALITA'S LIFE OF RECKLESS ABANDON-- GONE!
EVEN THAT SILLY GIRL'S BORING LIFE!
IN ONE SWEEP THE THREE WORLDS OF KETHERES, TIPHARES, AND THE SCRAPYARD WILL EXPLODE!
RMBRMBRMBRMBRMB.

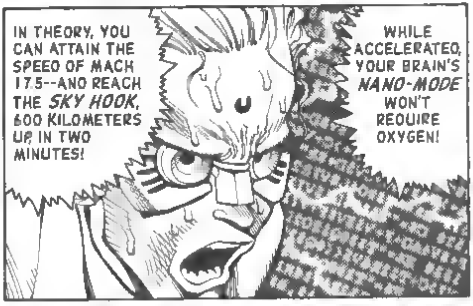
I'M NOT GOING TO DIE HERE!
ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO!?
DOH WHAT COULD WE POSSIBLY
AH!
RMB RMB RMB
SKADANG
FWA BNAM

RMBRMBRMB
WHAT THE HELL?
OOPSY...
BLAM
KABOOM
IT'S DEN'S CURSE
TIPHARES IS FALLING!
TCH TCH
DEN
GREAT DEN CONTROL YOUR WRATH!
PLOP
FWUMP
AIEEE!

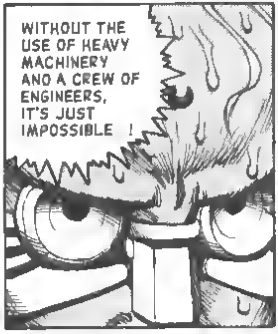

WHUMP
AAAAH!

hmm?
TH-THERE MAY BE ONE WAY...


ALITA, PERHAPS YOUR ACCELERATOR...!


IN THEORY, YOU CAN ATTAIN THE SPEED OF MACH 17.5--AND REACH THE SKY HOOK, 600 KILOMETERS UP, IN TWO MINUTES!
WHILE ACCELERATED, YOUR BRAIN'S NANO-MODE WON'T REQUIRE OXYGEN!

O-OKAY! SO HOW DO I SECURE THE DOCKING BOLT...!?
THAT'S THE BIG PROBLEM...


WITHOUT THE USE OF HEAVY MACHINERY AND A CREW OF ENGINEERS, IT'S JUST IMPOSSIBLE!

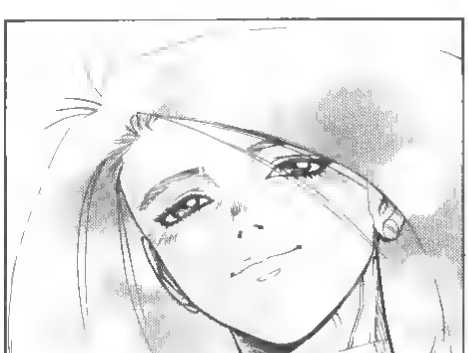
THEN WHAT CAN I DO...!?

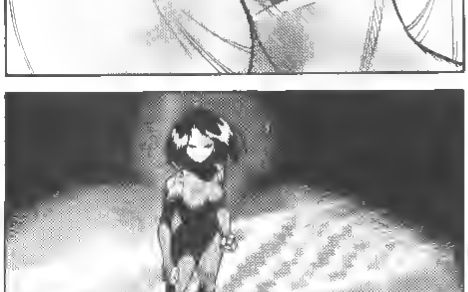
.....
I DION'T THINK WE'D USE IT FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS, BUT

BY INJECTING YOUR IMAGINOS BODY WITH THIS "TRIGGER".
...ONCE AND ONLY ONCE, YOUR BODY CAN GO THROUGH A "TRANSMUTATION" PROCESS!
TAKE THIS TO THE SKY HOOK! INJECT IT, THEN FUSE WITH THAT DOCKING BOLT!
BUT BEWARE... YOUR TRANS-MUTATION IS COMPLETELY CONTROLLED BY YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS! EVEN I CAN'T PREDICT WHAT WILL HAPPEN...
IT COULD ALL BE FOR NOTHING.
"FUSE WITH "?! ARE YOU USING ALITA AS SOME KIND OF GLUE TO HOLD IT ALL TOGETHER!? WHAT ABOUT HER!?
SHE WILL NEVER RETURN.
NO! SHE CAN'T GO!

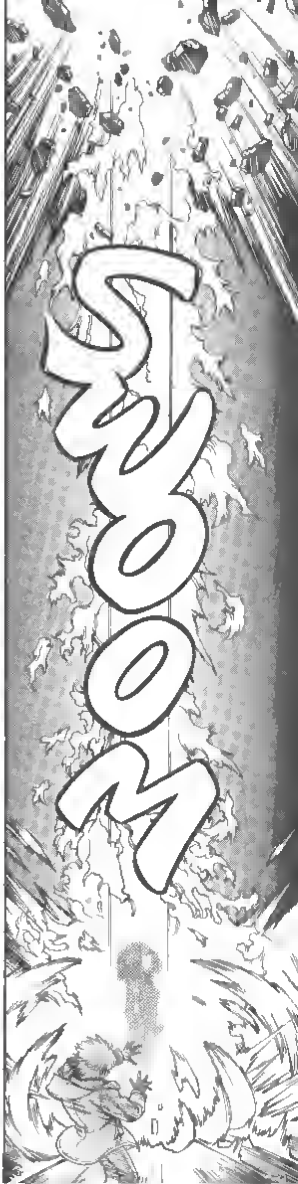
I'LL DO IT.
LOU...
DON'T FORGET ME...
AH... UH..
.....

FU UP
I'M SORRY...
...!?
SHAAAAA

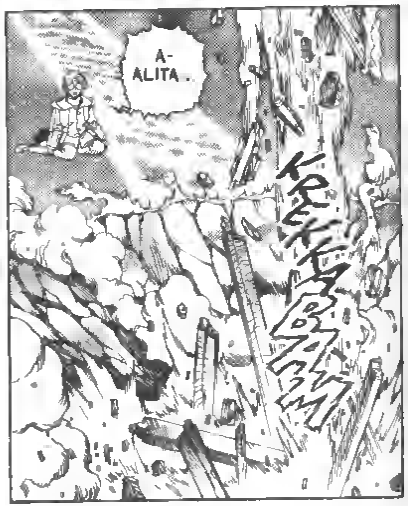




ALI--


SWOOM

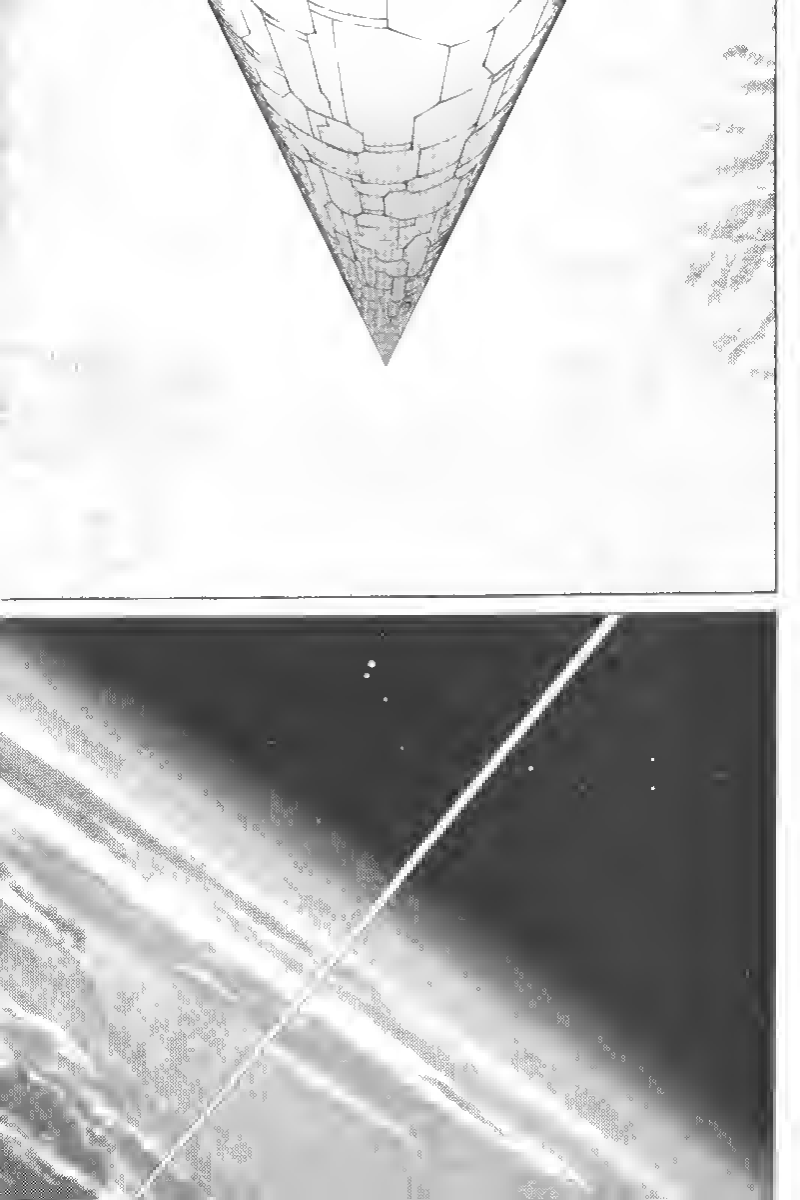
SHUDDOM

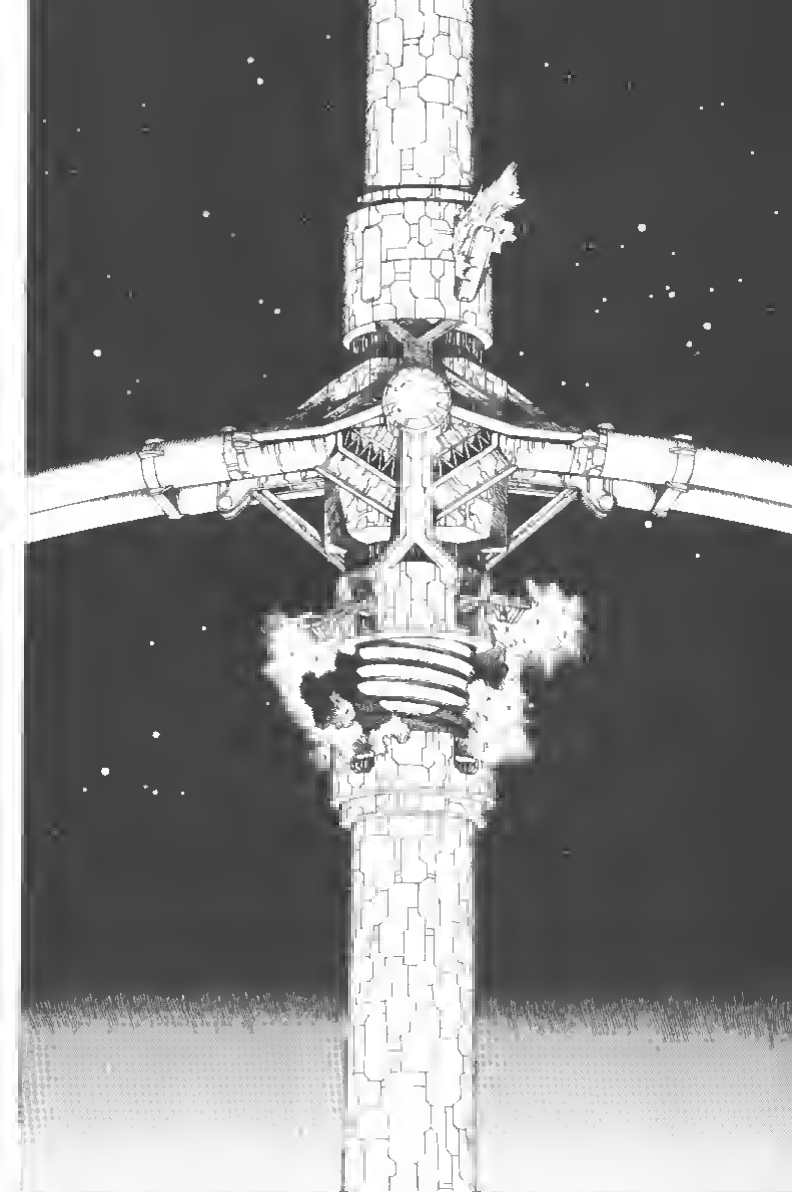

A-
ALITA..
KRE-KE-KE
BOOM!!!

DAMN I SHOULDN'T HAVE TOLD HER...
I SHOULD HAVE KEPT QUIET ABOUT THE TRIGGER.

I WISH YOU FAILURE, ALITA!

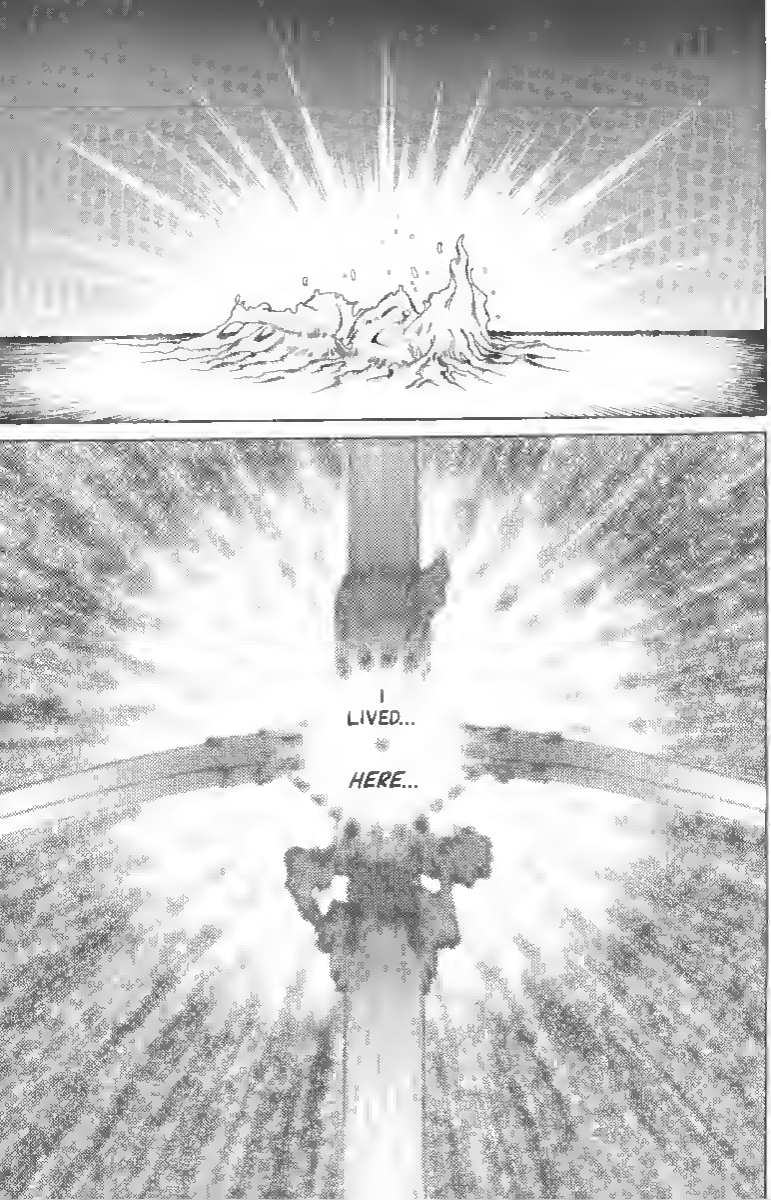
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, PROFESSOR NOVA! AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS!
THAT'S RIGHT! DESPISE ME! RIDICULE ME!
I'VE BATTLED ALL OF NATURE·· AND I DO NOT FEAR DEATH!
BUT ONE THING I CANNOT BEAR...
..IS TO BE RESCUED BY THE SELFLESSNESS OF MY OWN EXPERIMENTAL SUBJECT!
I WOULD RATHER SUFFER HELL ITSELF
..THAN BE SAVED BY THAT GIRL'S KINDNESS!
ASHES! LET THE SKY RAIN ASHES!
RMBD
RMBD

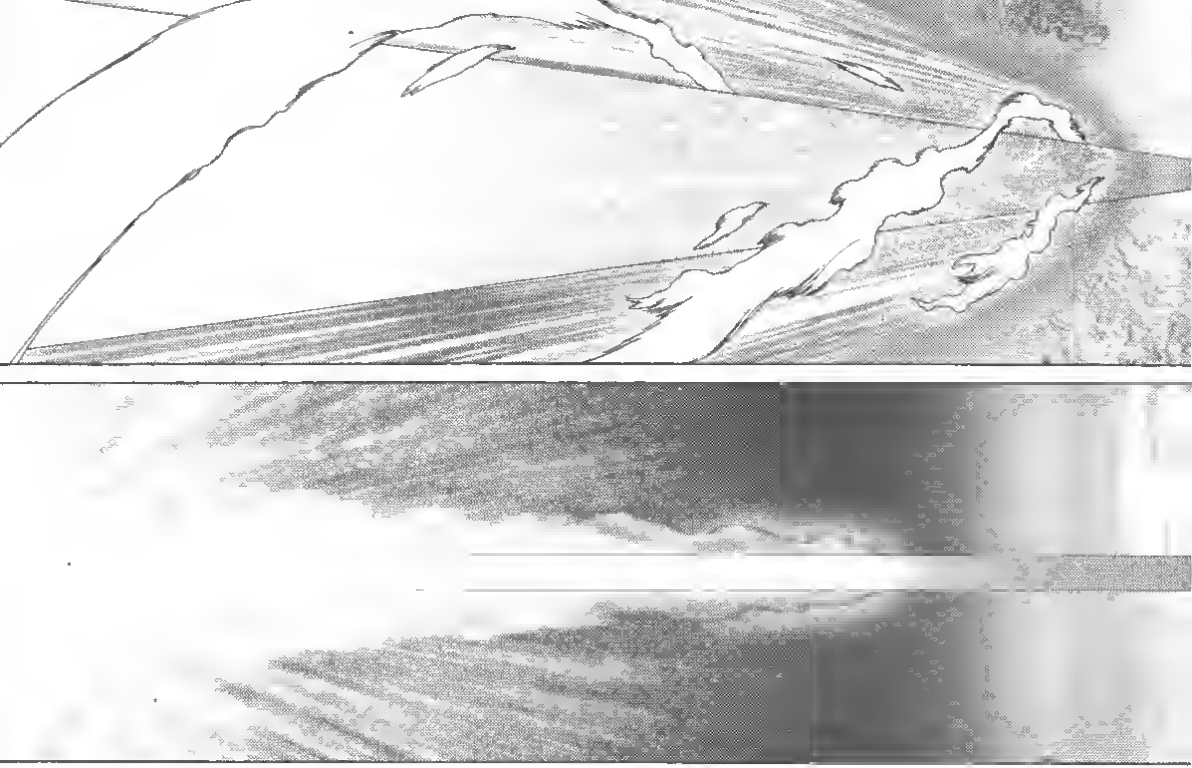


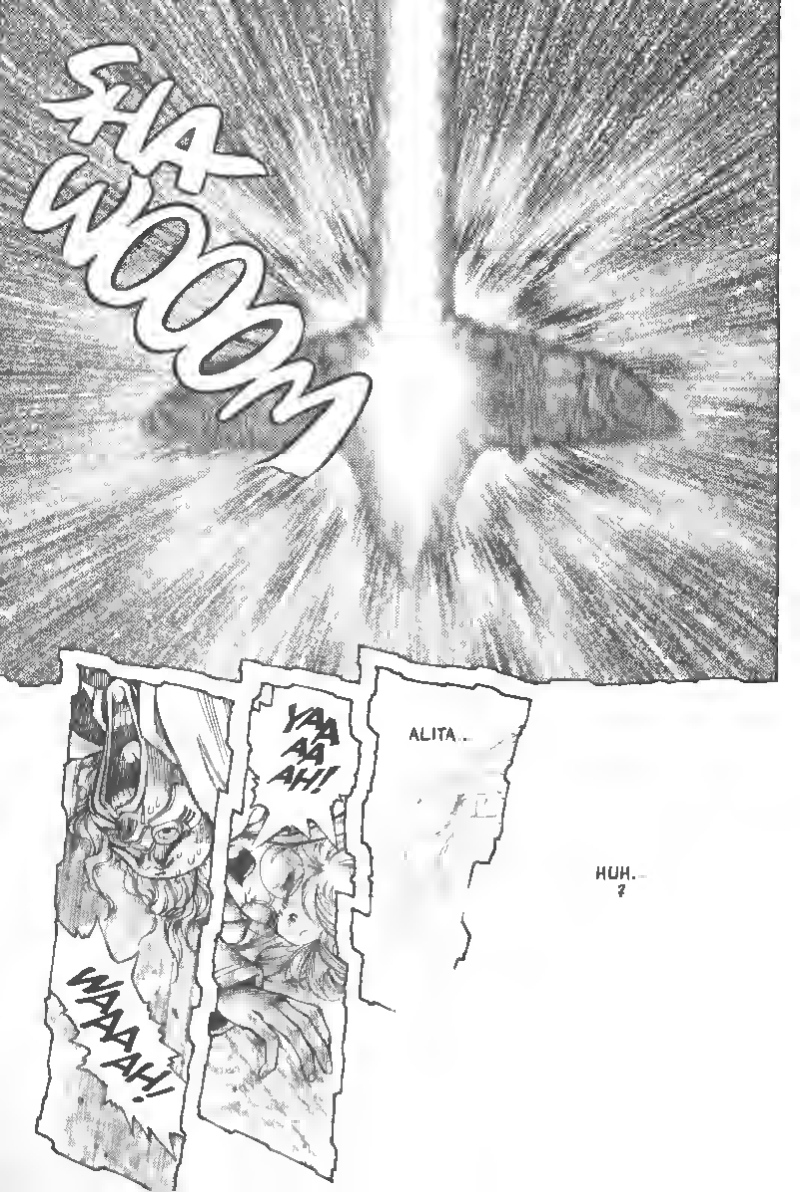


SO BLUE...
JUST LIKE I REMEMBER SEEING IT SO LONG AGO...
IS IT BECAUSE OF THE VACUUM OF SPACE...
THAT I CAN'T SHED ANY TEARS ?

I'VE NEVER BEEN SO LONELY...
...NEVER BEEN SO SAD...
BUT ALL THESE FEELINGS... THEY'LL LEAVE ME SOON.
I'M RIGHT HERE ..

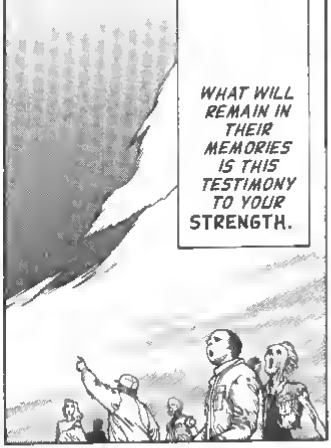

I
LIVED...
HERE...

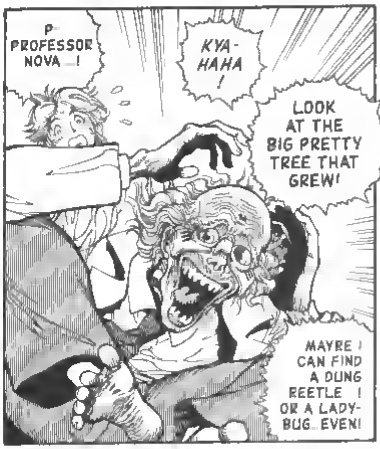



SHA-WOOOM
ALITA..
HUH.
?
YAA AA AH!
WAAA AH!

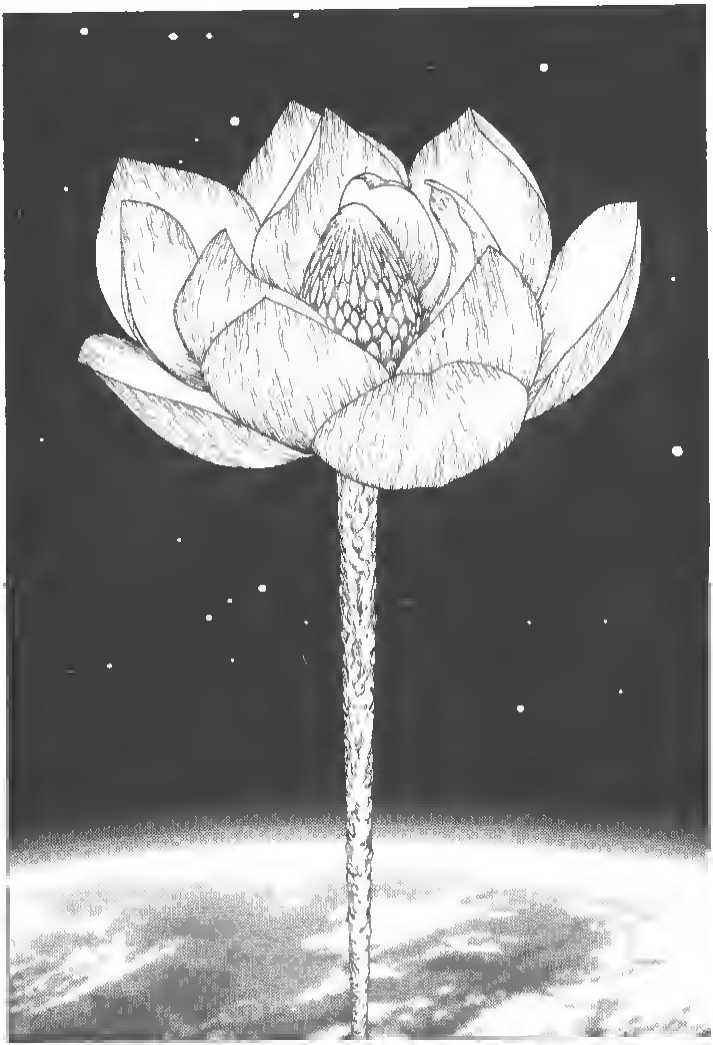
NNNH
SOMETHING SMELLS NICE
THIS SMELL IT'S LIKE
TREES AND GRASS !?
OH, ALITA !
I KNOW YOUR LAST THOUGHTS

WILL NEVER BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD BY THOSE YOU SAVED.

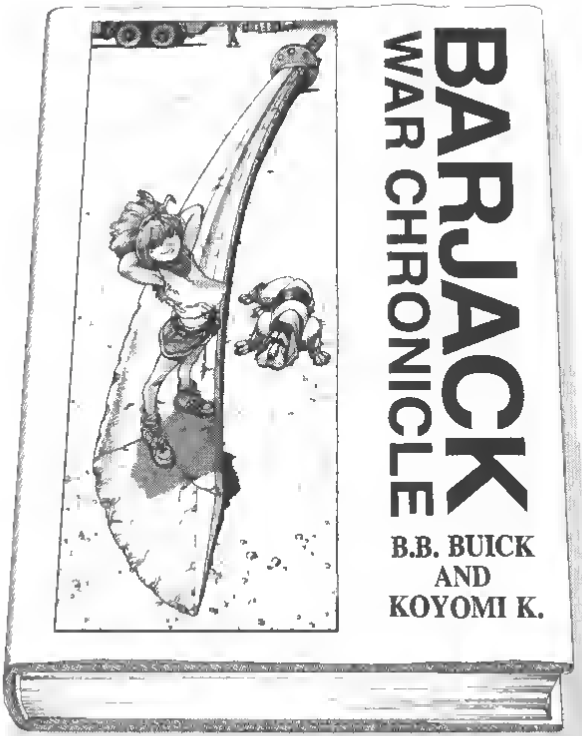




IF ONLY WE COULD BE STRONGER..

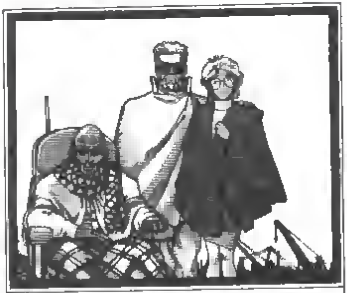


EPILOGUE



WHEN SHE WAS FIFTEEN, KOYOMI COMPILED BUICK'S PHOTOGRAPHS INTO A BOOK. IT CONTAINED A VOCAL DATA CHIP RECORDING OF A RARE INTERVIEW WITH DEN HIMSELF. THE BOOK BECAME THE SCRAPYARD'S GREATEST BESTSELLER ON RECORD.

WITH THE REVENUE FROM BARJACK WAR CHRONICLE.. KOYOMI'S FATHER OPENED THE FOURTH INCARNATION OF HIS BAR KANSAS. THIS TIME BUSINESS SEEMS TO BE BOOMING

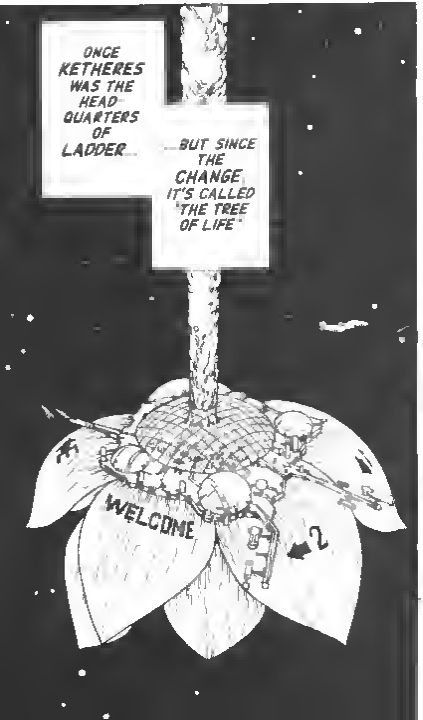


TOGETHER, VECTOR AND KAOS BROUGHT PEACE TO THE WORLD DURING THE PANIC THAT STRUCK WHEN THE FACTORIES SHUT DOWN. LOU'S STEADFAST LOVE AND SUPPORT WON HER KAOS'S HAND IN MARRIAGE

IT TOOK FIVE YEARS TO COMPLETE THE "TOWER OF TIPHARES." THE ARCHITECTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENT IS RECORDED IN A SERIES OF PHOTOS BY KOYOMI AND WILL BE RELEASED IN HER UPCOMING BOOK TOWER TO THE HEAVENS ON SALE NEXT MONTH. (RESERVE YOUR COPIES NOW!)

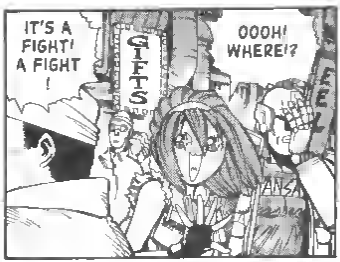
C'MON, OR I'LL LEAVE YOU BEHIND!
FIVE YEARS LATER
KOYOMI, AGE 18
PROFESSION: FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHER
MY NEXT BOOK WILL BE CALLED UNSUNG HERO, ALITA! (ALTHOUGH I AIN'T ALL THAT GOOD AT WRITING STUFF)
WHOA! SO THIS IS KETHERES ELYION!
YES, MA'AM
MAN, SHE'S ROUGH ON THE HELP

DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE'RE IN OUTER SPACE.
A REAL TOURIST MECCA NOW...
LOW RATES
HOTEL
GIFTS
GIFTS
REAL
WELCOME
GIFTS
Wedding Gowns


ONCE KETHERES WAS THE HEAD QUARTERS OF LADDER...
...BUT SINCE THE CHANGE IT'S CALLED "THE TREE OF LIFE."
WELCOME
2

THE REASON I CAME HERE? RUMOR HAD IT THAT A MAN WHO MIGHT BE NOVA HAD BEEN SPOTTED UP HERE.

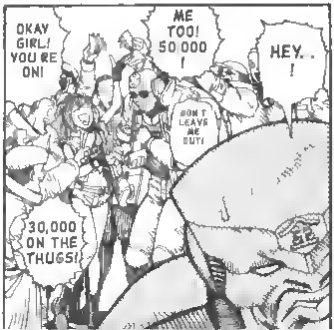
I HEARD HE WENT CRAZY (SOME SAY HE WAS ALREADY CRAZY), BUT I WAS HOPING TO GET MORE MATERIAL FOR MY BOOK--IF I COULD FIND HIM.


IT'S A FIGHT! A FIGHT!
GIFTS
OOOH! WHERE!?

BEEF BOWL
CAFE
FLOWERS
GIFTS
GIFTS
WOO-HOO! THREE AGAINST ONE! HOW EXTRAVAGANT!
GET 'EM! GET 'EM!

HEY, WANNA BET ON WHO WINS?
BUT THERE'S NO CONTEST AT THOSE ODDS

SLRP
I'LL BET EVERYTHING I'VE GOT ON THAT SCRUFFY LOOKING GUY!
WHAT!? ARE YOU SERIOUS!?


OKAY GIRL! YOU'RE ON!
ME TOO! 50,000!
HEY..!
DON'T LEAVE ME OUT!
30,000 ON THE THUGS!

HOW LONG RE YOU GOING TO SIT THERE AND--
FWAA

KAKAKA
EAT
!?
WHAM
UNH!
HUH
?
WOO

WHY YOU-!
SKRNCH
SKNORT

I'D SEEN A LOT OF FIGHTS IN MY LIFE, BUT THIS WAS THE MOST AMAZING!
TUP TUP
I MADE A KILLING BETTING ON YOU! DINNER'S ON ME!
go!
THE MAN INTRODUCED HIMSELF AS "FIGURE"...
DID HE SAY "FIGURE"...!?
WHAT LUCK! LOU TOLD ME THIS GUY WAS ALITA'S BOYFRIEND!
I HAD TO INTERVIEW HIM ABOUT ALITA'S ADVENTURE - AND HER DEATH...!

NO!
AA
KRE
KREK
YIPES
ALITA IS NOT DEAD!
SHE PROMISED ME SHE'D COME BACK!
SO SHE'S GOT TO BE ALIVE SOME-WHERE!
ulp!
.....

MISS KOYOMI! I FOUND THE GUY THAT MIGHT BE NOVA!
!!
GOOD JOB! I KNEW WE'D GET HIM!
ITS
DREAM D-DREAM
TH-THIS IS THE DEMONIC GENIUS NOVA...!?
GWOOOO !
OH !
FWMP
YOU! YOU KNOW! WHERE IS ALITA !?
UH ?
AL ALI ALIT
ALI... TA?

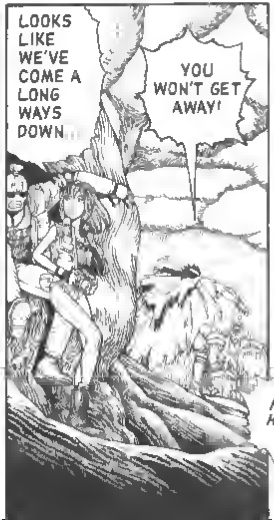
A-GI-T-A !
PLP PLP

FWUP
HMM !?
WHO DARE?!

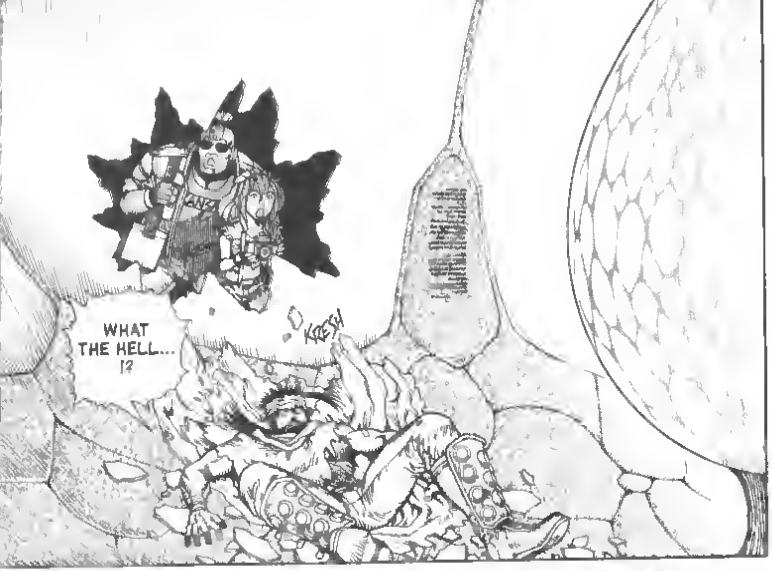
WICKIE MOOKIE!
FWIP
COME BACK HERE!

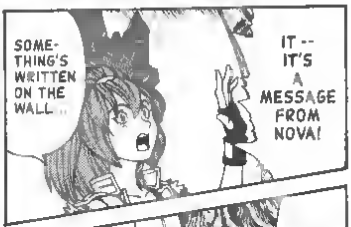
I DON'T THINK HE'LL TALK
BUT WE CAN'T JUST LET HIM--

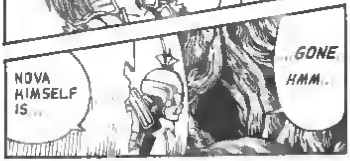
KYAAA

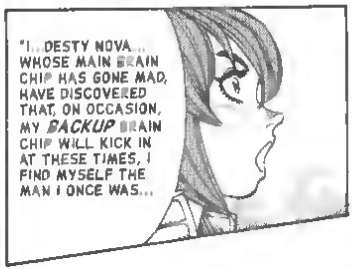

LOOKS LIKE WE'VE COME A LONG WAYS DOWN...
YOU WON'T GET AWAY!
KYA-HAHA !

BWAM


WHAT THE HELL... !?
KRETCH


SOME-THING'S WRITTEN ON THE WALL...
IT -- IT'S A MESSAGE FROM NOVA!


NOVA HIMSELF IS...
...GONE HMM..


"I... DESTY NOVA... WHOSE MAIN BRAIN CHIP HAS GONE MAD, HAVE DISCOVERED THAT, ON OCCASION, MY BACKUP BRAIN CHIP WILL KICK IN AT THESE TIMES, I FIND MYSELF THE MAN I ONCE WAS...

"... AND I'VE TAKEN THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO PERFORM RESEARCH ON THE STRUCTURE OF THE LIFE-TREE
"THE TREE OF LIFE HAS, AS ITS MOLECULAR BASE, A CARBON NANO-TUBE * ITS NANO-MACHINE CELLULAR STRUCTURE IS EXTREMELY DURABLE, YET HARMONICALLY BALANCED IN ITS REGENERATIVE METABOLISM
"HOWEVER, UNDERSTANDING HOW THIS UNIQUE MOLECULAR DESIGN CAME TO BE WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE FURTHER RESEARCH
"PERHAPS IT MAY LEAD TO A WAY TO FULFILL MY LIFELONG QUEST TO ESCAPE THE BOUNDS OF KARMA
"BY THE WAY,
GWOM
RRR
*CARBON NANO TUBE: A PARTICLE MADE UP OF CIRCULAR CARBON ATOMS. ITS STRUCTURE IS EXTREMELY COMPLETE, MAKING IT HIGHLY HEAT RESISTANT AND MECHANICALLY SOUND.

SPOOSH
SHAAAA
"...I'VE DISCOVERED TRACES OF ALITA'S GENETIC CODE STILL STORED WITHIN THE NANO MACHINE CELLS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THE LIFE TREE'S SYSTEMS...
"WITH A LITTLE NANO MANIPULATION, A COMPLETE REGENERATION MAY BE POSSIBLE...
FIGURE ?

Finis